



IO2 - UNIT 3 – Critical Thinking

Subunit 3.1.3 – Overcoming Obstacles to Critical Thinking

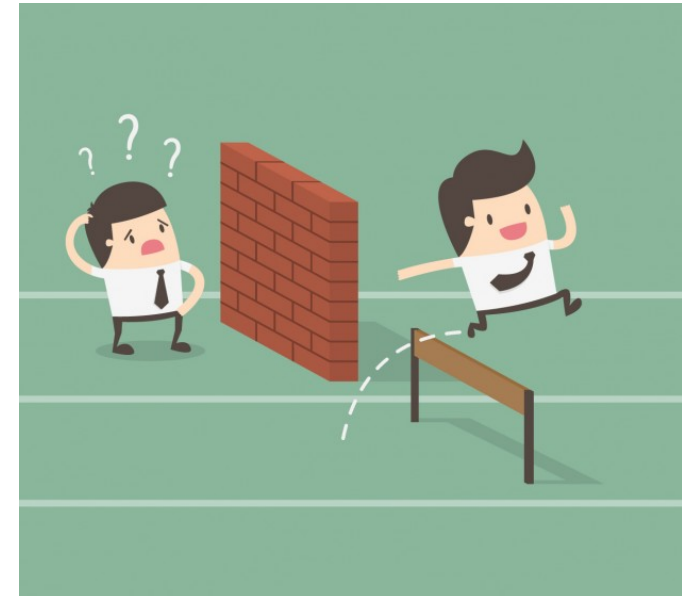


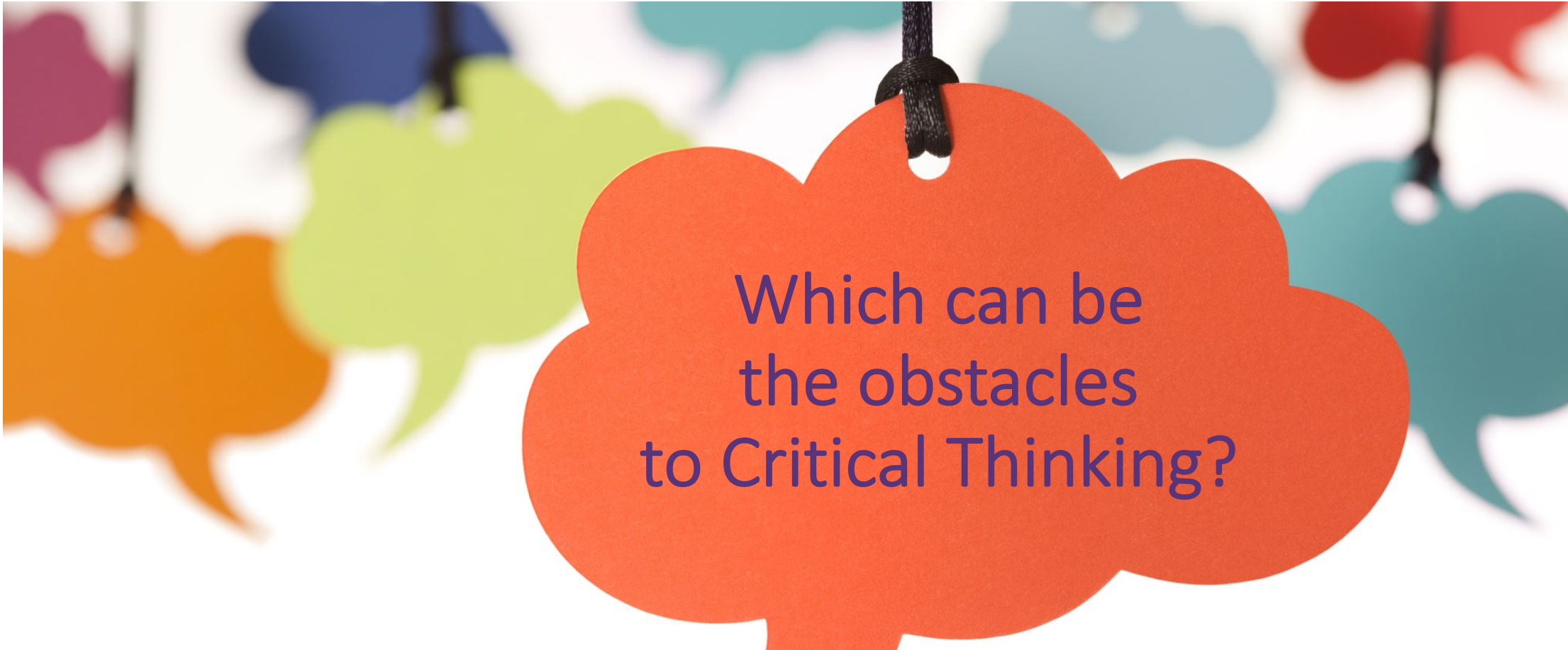
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Introduction

In this subunit we will help you to recognise common obstacles to Critical Thinking and explain you how you can effectively overcome them.

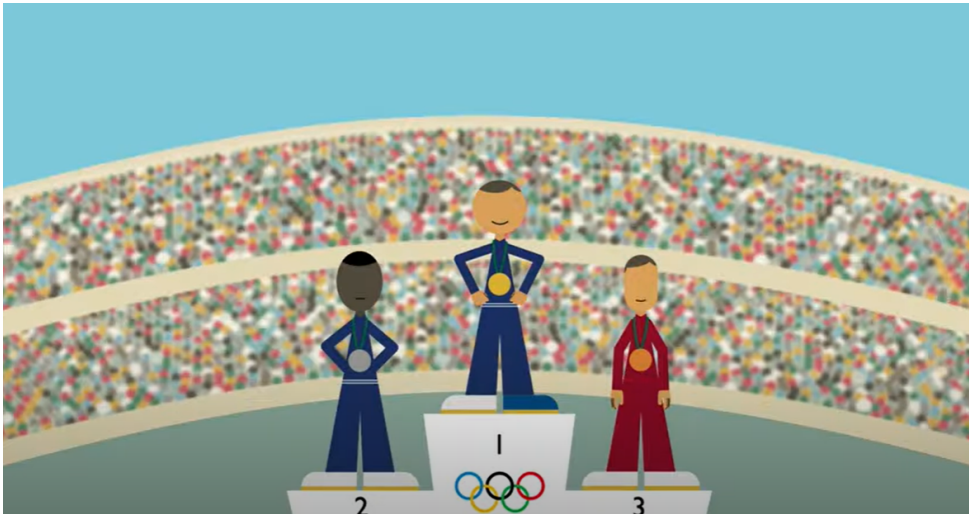


A string of colorful speech bubble ornaments hanging from a black cord. The central focus is a large, bright orange speech bubble with a scalloped edge, containing the text 'Which can be the obstacles to Critical Thinking?'. Other speech bubbles in shades of purple, blue, green, and red are visible in the background, slightly out of focus.

Which can be
the obstacles
to Critical Thinking?



Watch and discuss!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VX7sojco3s>

Watch the video “How Critical Thinking Can Change the Game”.

- What was the obstacle in the video case study?
- How was it overcome?

Egocentric Thinking

Egocentric thinking is a tendency **to view everything in relation to oneself**, and of having **poor empathy** and **inability to consider various perspectives**.

Individuals need **brainstorming sessions** and opportunities for **debate** in order to recognise and understand the attitudes and the viewpoints of others.



Groupthink



Groupthink - including **peer-pressure** - can lead to unhealthy decision patterns. To break this cycle individuals must **question popular opinions and ideas**.

Training in how to **present constructive arguments** and **decision-making** will help individuals to solve complex problems through challenging reasoning and making connections, without the fear of being wrong.

Indifference

Indifference is the **lack of interest to what is going on around you**. Daily routines can lead to it and to laziness, keeping individuals away from challenges.

They need to **find connections to new things and fields**, working with fresh and interesting information.



Social Conditioning



Unwanted assumptions and stereotyping leads to social conditioning, but most individuals do not realise they are conditioned to think a certain way.

Individuals need to take inventory of their thoughts and beliefs and see things with clarity and accuracy, so they can think outside the box.

Biased Experiences

Personal biases prevent the thinker from being open-minded, inquisitive and fair while making decisions.

Individuals must be encouraged to **lean on logic**, **using questioning techniques** and evaluating the clarity and accuracy of their thinking.



Schedule Pressures



Time constraints are a barrier to critical thinking skills if **individuals are overloaded with deadlines.**

Individuals must **adopt strategies to promote thinking behaviors**, such as creating a schedule for critical thinking skills development.

Intolerance

It is not possible to think critically with a **closed mindset**. Intolerance blocks creativity and does not allow other suggestions for problem-solving.

Individuals must be encouraged to **question** their logic by answering to questions as:

- What are my thoughts on this topic?
- Why do I think like this?
- Should I view it differently?



Misunderstanding



Misunderstanding can arise due to language or cultural differences or a lack of knowledge on topics and processes at work.

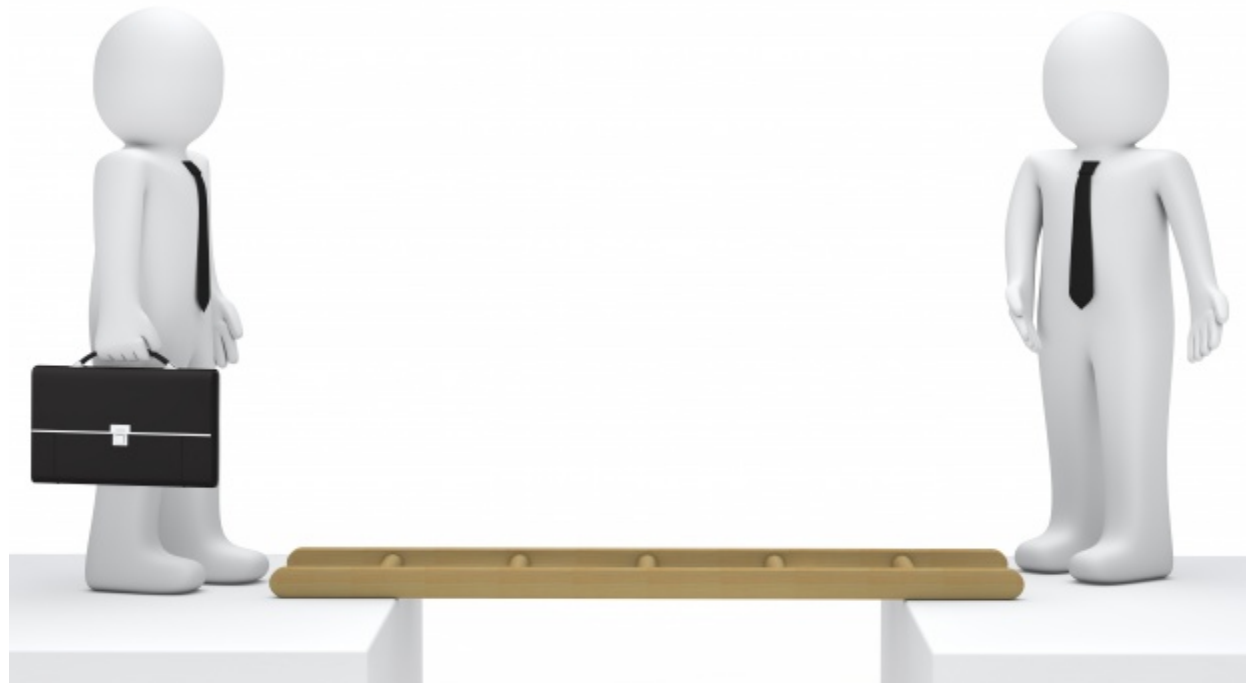
Individuals must **avoid value judgments** and improve their willingness to gain additional topics' knowledge.



Write!

Identify **3 barriers** from the barriers presented or others you might consider that you think you are likely to be more exposed to at work.

For each of them, suggest ways **how you can overcome them**.



Summing up!

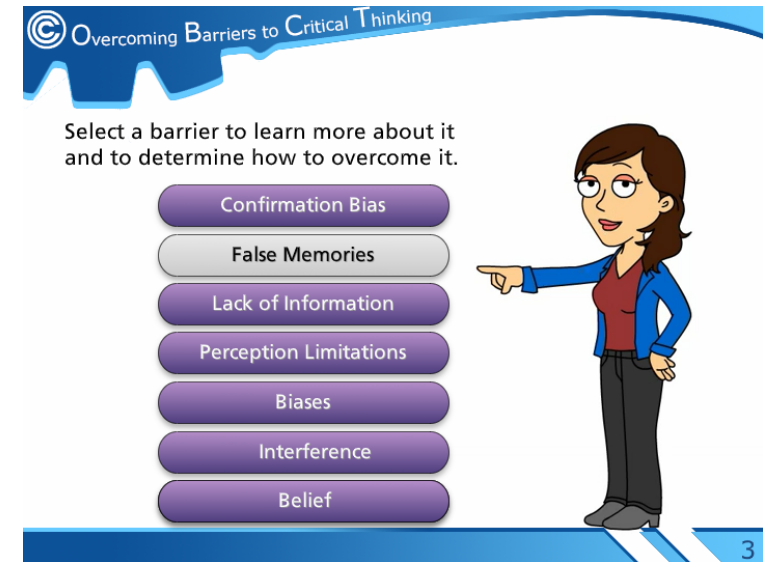
To successfully avoid running into Critical Thinking barriers, we must first **become aware** of which are they and that **we are not immune** to them.

If we know what **we should consciously avoid**, we allow ourselves to make informed decisions and become better at practicing Critical Thinking techniques.



Self-assessment

Go to the site [“Overcoming barriers to Critical Thinking”](https://www.wisc-online.com/learn/general-education/oral-interpersonal/ccs12215/overcoming-barriers-to-critical-thinking-bein) and engage in the interactive activity to learn how to overcome 8 barriers to Critical Thinking! Explore the scenarios, answer the quizzes and check if you already know how to overcome these barriers!



<https://www.wisc-online.com/learn/general-education/oral-interpersonal/ccs12215/overcoming-barriers-to-critical-thinking-bein>

References

Websites

- <https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/critical-thinking/critical-thinking-barriers> 7 Critical Thinking Barriers and How to Overcome Them
- <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/ocw/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=64740§ion=1> Barriers to Critical Thinking
- <https://www.marketing91.com/barriers-to-critical-thinking/> 10 Common Barriers To Critical Thinking
- <https://www.wisc-online.com/learn/general-education/oral-interpersonal/ccs12215/overcoming-barriers-to-critical-thinking-bein> Overcoming Barriers to Critical Thinking: Being Human

Videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VX7sojco3s> How Critical Thinking Can Change the Game (2 mnts.)



Further reading

Websites

- <https://hiverhq.com/blog/critical-thinking-mistakes-that-hamper-productivity> Productivity: Critical Thinking Mistakes You Need To Overcome
- <https://www2.palomar.edu/users/cthompson/Thomsons120/Blocks%20to%20Critical%20Thinking.htm> Blocks to Critical Thinking
- <https://www.wisc-online.com/learn/general-education/oral-interpersonal/ccs12415/barriers-to-critical-thinking-being-human> Barriers to Critical Thinking



“The greater the obstacle the more glory in overcoming it”

Molière



Project partners

