IO2 - UNIT 3 – Critical Thinking
Subunit 3.3 – Practical Activities for Facilitating the Development of Critical Thinking Skills

Introduction

In this subunit you will be presented **strategies, digital tools, and practical activities to develop Critical Thinking skills.** They will guide you on having a holistic approach to challenges in your workplace.

Which strategies, tools and activities can be used to improve your Critical Thinking?

Strategies

Independent thinking is desirable so trainees or workers can create great solutions.

Additionally to all the information we gave you during this Unit, we will provide you some final **strategies on how to improve Critical Thinking skills.**

Strategies

- Set personal goals

This will make you keep in mind the tasks that need to be accomplished.

- Prioritise tasks

Prioritising tasks increases productivity. Take enough time to plan them, as it will save you work in the long run. Do it online with the apps below.

Strategies

- **Look from different angles**

Take an opposing viewpoint. This opens new ways of thinking and generates solutions previously unconsidered.

- **Collaborate with others**

Get feedback especially from people with different backgrounds than yours, so you can understand other ideas.

Strategies

- Discuss opinions

Justify your opinions when you disagree with your colleagues on a specific topic and consider all the arguments from all sides.

- Think reversely

Start from the end and work back to the start. Use the question "How did they do that?" to find issues in a process.

Strategies – Activity!

Think about an issue at your work place. Following the 6 given strategies in the order they were presented, **come out with solutions for the issue**. Work collaboratively!

Tools - Best Digital Practices

Using **technology** is always a great engaging idea to develop Critical Thinking skills.

We will present you some digital **tools**. Choose in advance the ones that make more sense to use at work or look for other tools adapted to your working goals and take time to learn how to use them.

Doing this early in the traineeship will make **trainees working on their own quickly** and minimize setbacks on the road to success!

Tools for Video Creation/Edition

Tools for Video Conference

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Tools for Data Visualisation/Graph making

Lucidchart

creately

Tools for Document/Image Design

Canva

Tools for Project Management

Tools – Activity!

Use your PC, laptop, tablet or mobile phone to **research in the Internet** about the functionalities of the tools presented.

You can also look for other **digital tools that may help you at your workplace**.

Choose a tool and **take time learn**ing how to use it — take the time to discover it to support you doing your work tasks.

Practical Activity 1 – Ladder of Inference

Ladder of Inference is a **model for decision making**. It helps realise

which data from past experiences is taken into account when making a

decision.

Watch the video **"Rethinking Thinking"** and discuss with your

colleagues:

- Can you recall a situation similar to the "parking lot" video example

  that ever happened to you at your workplace?

- Which assumptions did you take on that situation?

- How could have been the situation different if you didn't have used

  your assumptions?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJLqOclPqis
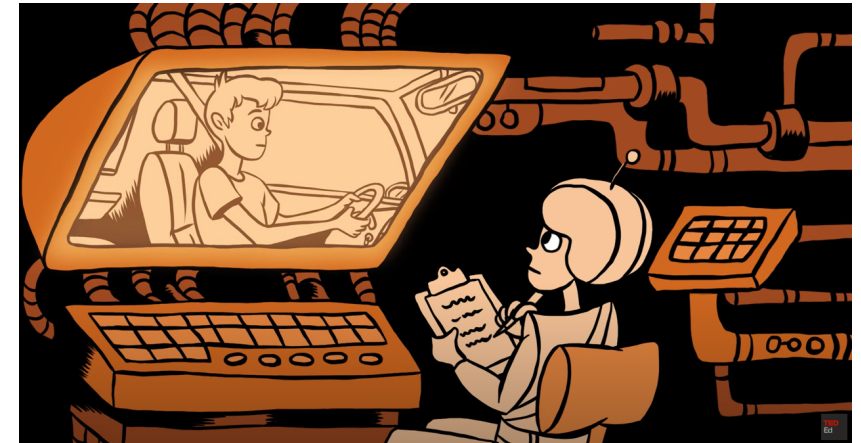
Practical Activity 2 – Pro-Pro Chart

https://vimeo.com/203013303

The Pro-Pro Chart is a **method to make decisions focusing on the positive aspects of two opposing ideas**.

Watch the video **"Integrative Tinking"** and:

- consider a current issue at your workplace;

- make two groups – each group must think on a way to solve it and write down the ideas;

- each group must share its findings with the other group;

- extract the most important parts of each solution and create a new integrated solution together.
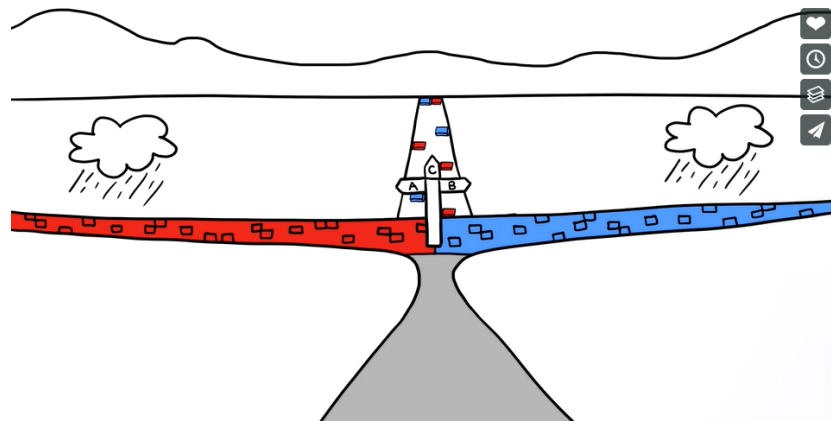
Practical Activity 3 – Brain Teaser

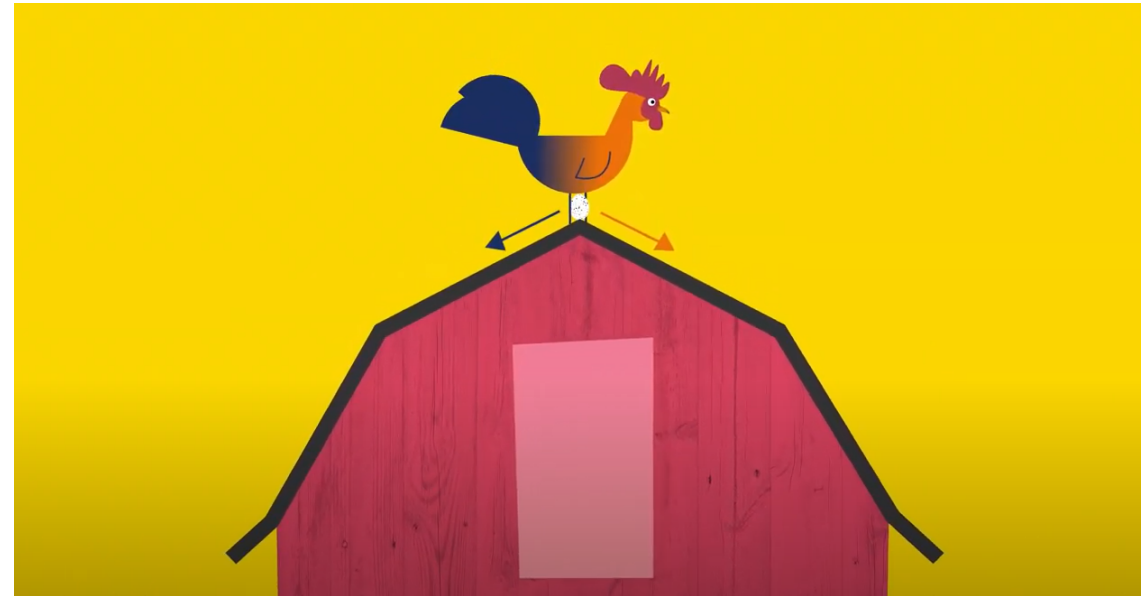Brain teasers are a **funny way to develop Critical Thinking skills**.

Watch the video **"Using Brain Teasers to Build Critical Thinking Skills"** and try to decipher the teaser.

Research other brain teasers online and enjoy solving them!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2eINI4WXkc

References

Websites

- https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/critical-thinking/7-critical-thinking-strategies 7 Simple and Effective Critical Thinking Strategies That Really Work

- https://papersowl.com/blog/critical-thinking-strategies-for-students Best Critical Thinking Strategies that Work

- https://theuncommonleague.com/blog/2017824/how-to-encourage-critical-thinking-in-the-workplace How to Encourage Critical Thinking in the Workplace

- https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/critical-thinking/26-critical-thinking-tools-blooms-taxonomy The Best Critical Thinking Tools Aligned With Bloom's Taxonomy

- https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/46781/three-tools-for-teaching-critical-thinking-and-problem-solving-skills Three Tools for Teaching Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills

- https://hdsb-theshift.com/blog/2018/12/12/what-is-a-pro-pro-chart What is a Pro-Pro Chart?

Videos

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJLqOclPqis Rethinking Thinking (5.5 mnts.)

- https://vimeo.com/203013303 Integrative Thinking (3 mnts.)

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2eINI4WXkc Using Brain Teasers to Build Critical Thinking Skills (2 mnts.)

Further reading

Websites

- https://t-challenge.eu/en/webquest/subjects/5/critical-thinking Critical Thinking Webquests

Project partners