

**Motivating
Critical Thinking
Across the
ASEAN Region**



Hello!

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▣ Critical thinking is the attempt to make sound judgments without being distracted by irrelevant considerations

(Jones, 2001)



▣ Critical thinking aims at making wise decisions and coming to correct conclusions.

(Moore & Parker, 2012)



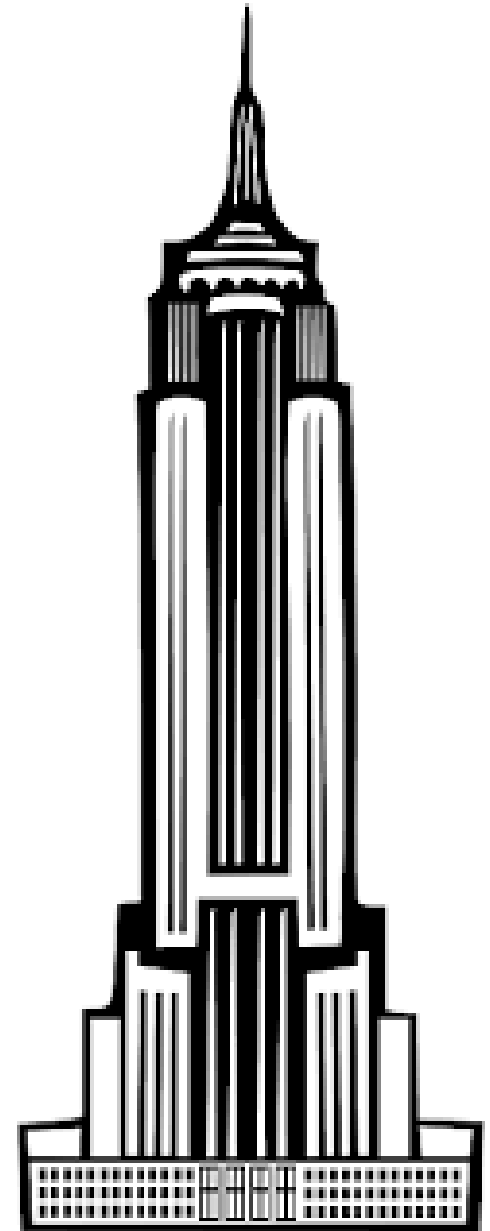
■ Critical thinking involves thinking about thinking

(Moore & Parker, 2012)

1.

Key principles of thinking

(Ruggiero, 2015)



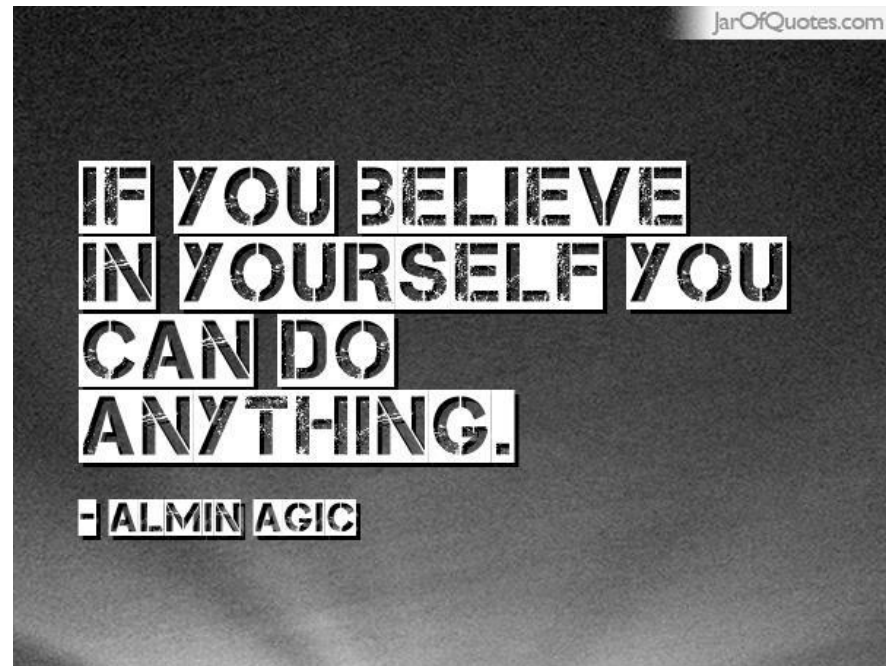


Truth is discovered, not
created





Ideas are interrelated





A statement can't be both true and false at the same time, and the same way.





Everyone makes mistakes,
even experts



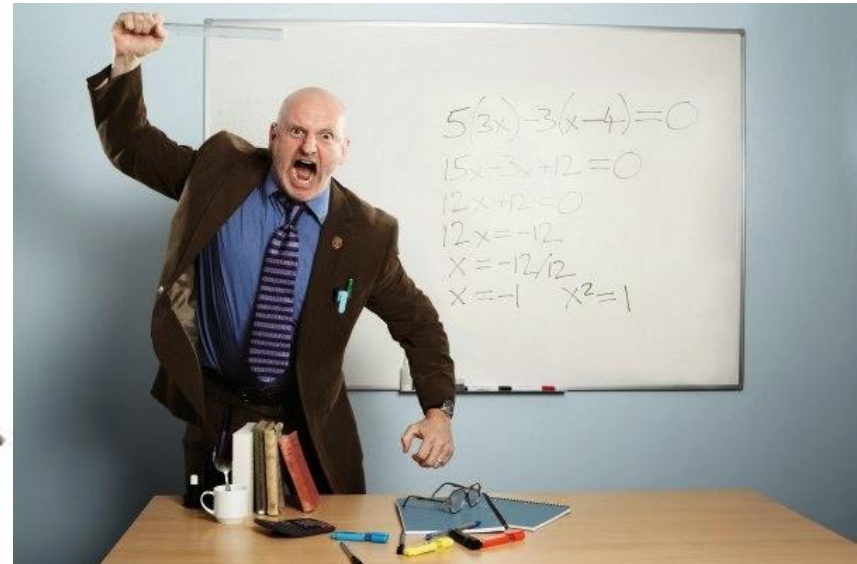


Ideas can be examined
without being embraced





Feeling is no substitute for thinking



2.

**Key habits of
thinking**

The habit of curiosity

Curiosity can be killed.

It can also be rekindled.



Skill in distinguishing facts from opinions

Common knowledge

Vs.

Technical/niche knowledge

Vs.

Opinion



The habit of checking facts and testing opinions

- Consult everyday experience
- Consider the opinion's likely consequences
- Consider the implications
- Think of exceptions and counterexamples
- Reverse the opinion
- Look for relevant research



3.

**Turning
knowledge into
practice**



The WISE Approach

Bring the attention of your audience over a key concept using icons or illustrations

WISE Approach

(Ruggiero, 2015)





Wonder



Investigate



A. Investigating problems

- How does the process work or how was it designed?
- What's not working about it? Or why are people dissatisfied?
- Why previous attempts to solve it didn't work?

B. Investigating issues

- ▣ Acquire sufficient evidence to form a judgment
- ▣ Identify conflicting arguments/perspectives about the issue



Speculate



A. Speculating on problems

- ▣ Aims at identifying a broad range of possible solutions.
- ▣ Ask a variety of “How to”/”How can” questions
- ▣ Think of as many answers you can

B. Speculating on issues

- ▣ Aims at considering possible resolutions of a controversy
- ▣ Summarize the arguments on both sides of the issue, and turn all conflicting assertions/conclusions into questions (can be done in table with several columns)



Evaluate



A. Evaluating problems

- Review all possible solutions you produced for your “how to” questions

- Test the possible solutions according to relevant criteria:
 - Comprehensiveness
 - Longevity
 - Practicality
 - Safety
 - Efficiency
 - Economy
 - Compatibility
 - Appearance
 - Morale
 - Legality and morality

B. Evaluating issues

- Aim is to find the most defensible view
- Begin by addressing the questions you raised about the assertions.
- Weigh the evidence (kind and quality of the evidence) and decide which assertions are true
- Determine which conclusions would flow logically from the true assertions.
- Decide on the most defensible point of view.

4.

Bias

(Ruggiero, 2015)

Potential biases

1. Bias towards what confirms you personal views
2. Bias towards familiar ideas
3. Bias toward your likes and dislikes



5.

Empowering attitudes

(Ruggiero, 2015)



There's always room for
improvement



Criticism, including self-criticism, has value



Effort is the key to success



Other people are as
important as I am

6.

East vs. West

Asian vs. European society

(Kwang, 2001)



East

- Tightly organized
- Collectivistic
- Hierarchical
- Emphasis on social order and harmony
- Face-conscious

West

- Loosely organized
- Individualistic
- More egalitarian
- Emphasis on open and democratic exchange
- Concerned with realizing one's individual potential

*Flower in a crannied wall,
I pluck you out of the crannies,
I hold you here, root and all, in my hand,
Little flower – but if I could understand,
What you are, root and all, and all in all,
I should know what God and man is.*

- Alfred Lord Tennyson

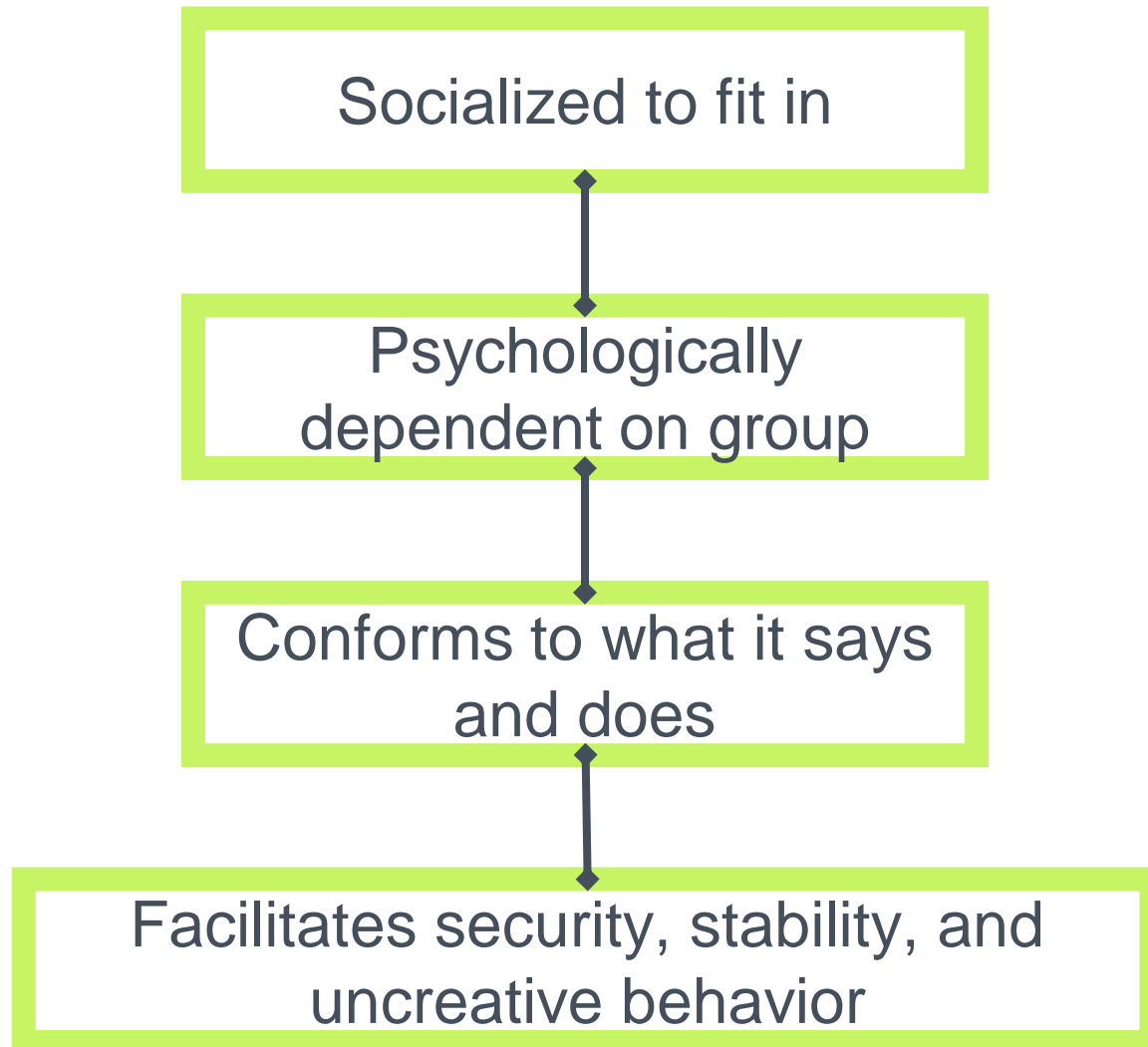
When I look carefully
I see the nazuna blooming
By the hedge!

- Basho



Creatively constrained?

(Kwang, 2001)



Asian vs. American student

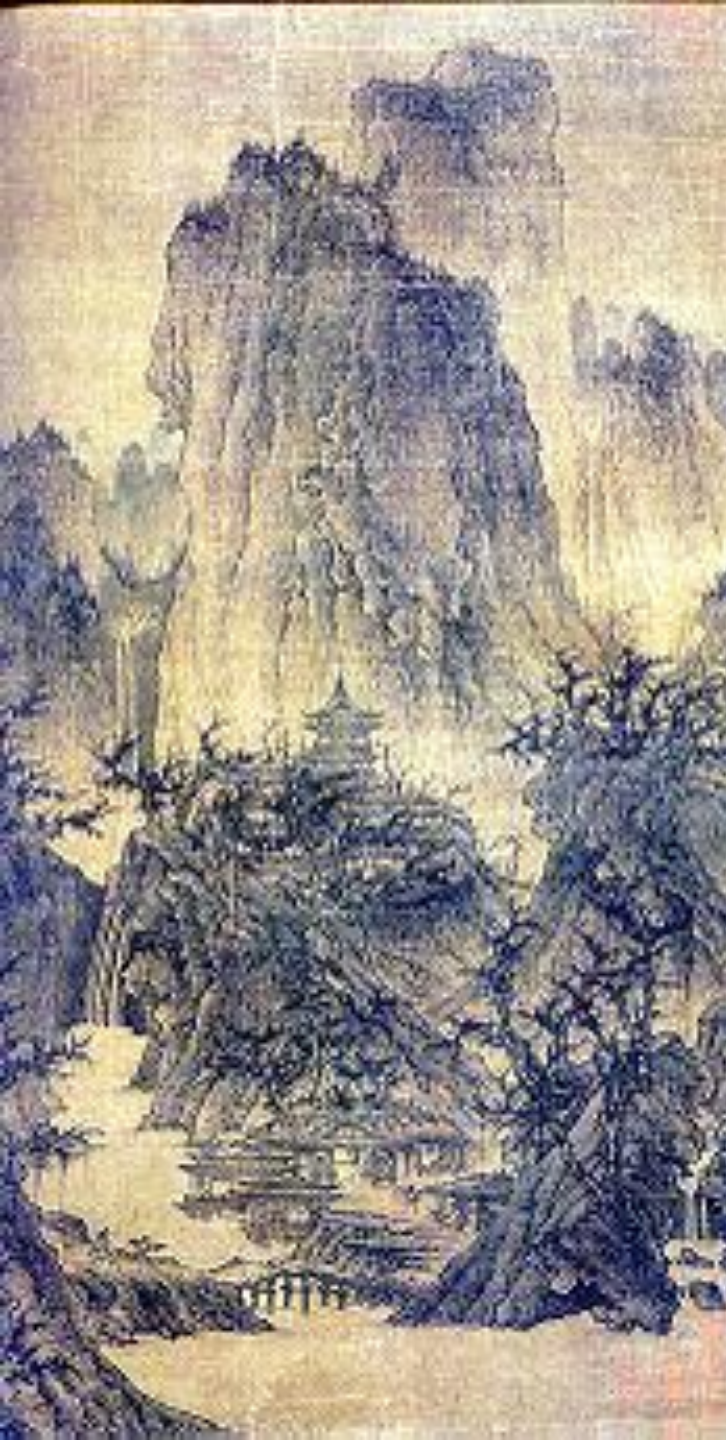
(Kwang, 2001)

SOAM

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Control and critical thinking





7.

**Towards
creative and
critical thinking
ASEAN youth**

Raising a creative child

(Kwang, 2001)



- ▣ Help the child develop a positive self concept
- ▣ Don't let judgment rule and suppress the creative spirit
(Goleman's VOJ)
- ▣ Nurture autonomy of the child
- ▣ Promote the Asian family as a playground of life
- ▣ Conflict/tension is not necessarily bad

Beware of the TV


- ▣ Keeps young people away from books
- ▣ TV programming aims at “LCD”
- ▣ Slang, cliches, and simple talk hinders language skills
- ▣ Low order questions on game shows
- ▣ Teleserye, movies, etc. rely on narrative approach, not analytical
- ▣ Focuses on celebrities, not authorities

Average Time in **WATCHING** TV *per peson in ASEAN and OTHERS*



Steps for Asian students to think creatively & critically (Lee, 1999)

1. Students should learn to question “accepted” answers (learning from teachers is second to learning on one’s own)
2. Learn to ask good, probing questions
3. View problems from all angles
4. Mastery-oriented, not performance oriented.
5. Attempt to tackle “unsolvable” problems
6. Educator must respect his/her students’ right to express their opinions



**Teachers,
become more
egalitarian**

Kwang's "10 Comprehensive Guidelines to Becoming a Creative Asian"

1. Maintain a flexible discipline in every situation
2. Seek peace and harmony within the social group, but don't be afraid to take a moral stance
3. Give face to the other, but don't seek to gain face thru material goods
4. Infuse yourself with passion; help the less fortunate; be an everyday creator
5. Be modest, yet believe in yourself

Kwang's "10 Comprehensive Guidelines to Becoming a Creative Asian"

6. Use reason to prune tradition
7. Don't be a pushover!
8. Adopt an experimental attitude by taking calculated risks
9. Maintain a playful attitude towards life
10. Imagine you are a butterfly dreaming that you're a human being

The End



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