

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF) within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 5 - Snippet 116

Have you learned something when doing the last activity?

Peter Wason used this task in an experiment and found that only about 10% of individuals tested answered the question correctly. Most participants answered that you need to turn over cards 1 and 3. But our logical thinking resulted in the conclusion that by turning card 3 you don't get any evidence that the rule is true or false, whereas by turning card 4 you have the chance to disprove the rule, if there is the name of a fruit on the flipside.

Peter Wason concluded that the participants' confirmation bias could have been the possible reason why most participants chose cards which confirmed their hypothesis rather than paying the same attention to eliminating it.

You will learn more about the confirmation bias later in this unit.

Comic from Crimes Against Hugh's Manatees by Hugh D. Crawford,
<http://crimesagainsthughsmantees.tumblr.com/image/158616111767>, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 3.0, retrieved 16 March 2018

