

## 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 1 - Snippet 14

#### A description of critical thinking

According to Insight Assessment, “Critical thinking is sceptical without being cynical. It is open-minded without being wishy-washy. It is analytical without being nit-picky. Critical thinking can be decisive without being stubborn, evaluative without being judgmental and forceful without being opinionated.” This set of characteristics has been transferred into a table format as shown below.

#### *Critical thinking is ... Critical thinking is not ...*

Sceptical	Cynical
Open-minded	Wishy-washy
Analytical	Nit-picky
Decisive	Stubborn
Evaluative	Judgmental
Forceful	Opinionated



#### Exploratory activity

Use information from your reading so far to add at least 3 more characteristics and non-characteristics of critical thinking to the table. You may not find consistently such pairings like above but should try and work out for yourself the opposite of what you do find.

E.g. *If critical thinking is a must-have skill, then critical thinking cannot be an unnecessary / unimportant skill. Therefore, write ‘a must-have skill’ in the first column, and ‘an unnecessary / unimportant skill’ in the second column.*

If you can access Youtube, you may find further inspiration in this video -

<https://youtu.be/be4y7KCNE7o>

Write the pairings down that you found and possibly share them with your fellow students.