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## 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

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#### *Unit 4 - Snippet 97*

How have you described the relationships that are shown in diagram 2 (previous snippet)? That would be a possible answer:

The diagram shows a correlation between per capita income of a community and environmental quality. There is no information about how the environmental quality is defined and what type of relationship the two items have. Thus, we don't have any information that there could be a causal relationship. Interestingly, there isn't a linear correlation between the two items; the quality initially worsens with the increase of income and then improves after a turning point.

Can you think of any reasons why the quality could first worsen and then improve when the per capita income increases? If so, you just developed a theory which would need further exploration to prove or disprove your ideas. Please feel free to discuss your thoughts with your fellow students.