
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)
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Unit 4 - Snippet 99

Has the last diagram confused you or was it clear to you immediately that there is no meaningful relation between the items in the diagram? It has been produced by Tyler Vigen, a consultant and former PhD student at Harvard University in the United States. It is part of a series of such quite meaningless correlation diagrams, meant to show that it's possible to draw a graph showing statistical correlation between obviously unrelated items such as poisoning by pesticides in the US and visitors to Disneyland in Tokyo. Tyler wants to encourage people to think critically when looking at correlations and data. What other people present as correlation or even cause-effect may not be what it looks like.

If you are interested to learn more about causality and are able to watch Youtube videos, we can recommend the Video 'Causality' by Complexity Labs (2016)

https://youtu.be/P_ykeBfd5ds