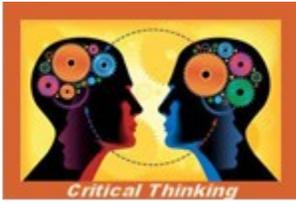


The Power of Critical Thinking



What is critical thinking? Clinically defined as "intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action." Are you still with me?

For the writer, I like Barry K. Beyer's practical non-clinical definition. "*Critical thinking is making clear, reasoned judgments.*" Isn't that a writer's purpose? Let's follow up on Beyer's definition and see if we can apply it to our writing activities. I believe the opposite of clear, reasoned judgment is cloudy thinking, non-clinically defined as unclear and unreasoned judgment. Now that was easy, wasn't it?

I'm not demeaning those who are clinically foggy in their thought process. I have total and extensive empathy and sympathy for them. The rest of us may be able to fine-tune our critical thinking process by following a few simple steps.

There are times when I'm speaking or writing that I find myself fighting unclear thinking or unreasoned judgment. When I'm aware this is happening, I stop and reflect on the process in my book "[SOAR Without Limits](#)" process. (Six Steps to Overcome Obstacles and Achieve Results)

Here comes the commercial - a synopsis of the SOAR process. Best to write down each of the steps.

- First, be clear on your desired outcome. What result are you seeking? A sentence, a paragraph, a chapter, a book. You get the idea.
- Second, recognize the issues getting in the way of achieving your desired outcome - time, people, circumstances.
- Third, seek out pertinent information to mitigate the negative issues and reinforce the positive ones - research, family, colleagues.
- Fourth, develop hypotheses to address the issues. What alternatives do you have?
- Fifth, prioritize your intended actions. Do first things first.
- Sixth, test your thinking on others. Ouch! But an important step.

If all else fails, go back to the clinical definition and attack each element in order. (Good luck with that.) I'm looking forward to your comments on this one. I just know you'll think about it - critically.

Remove the fog, think critically.

Click Image



Realize your dream, read [Soar Without Limits](#). [Email](#) us and tell us how we can propel you on your journey.