Critical Thinking Skills

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Business Management Module

SEMIls
Quiz: What is Critical Thinking?

What does the phrase “critical thinking” mean?

a. Thinking about important things in business
b. Criticizing a bad situation when there are problems
c. Using your brain to creatively anticipate, identify, and solve potential problems
d. Implementing answers other people have given you
Critical Thinking ...

✓ Your most important job

✓ The most important skill to look for in your senior managers
Simple Truth: In some cases, to engage in critical thinking, you must have some solid facts to think about!
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**Numbers, records, analysis**

Otherwise you are just guessing, not engaging in critical thinking.
How to recognize critical thinkers

They:

• Think beyond “what’s in front of them”
• Think cross-functionally (e.g., how does production impact finance? Or marketing?)
• Look at opportunity costs
• Seek all pertinent information to solve a problem
• Learn from their mistakes
• Get excited about sharing what they have learned
• Think “what is the best thing to do here”
How to recognize critical thinkers: Are YOU one?

• Think beyond “what’s in front of you”
• Think cross-functionally (e.g., how does production impact finance? Or marketing?)
• Look at your opportunity costs
• Seek all pertinent information to solve a problem
• Learn from your, and your company’s, mistakes
• Get excited about sharing what you have learned
• Think “what is the best thing to do here”
Three Critical Thinking Exercises

1. Human resources problem
2. Production problem
3. Input supply problem (getting parent seed)