



### Critical Thinking Techniques for Insider Threat Analysts

Critical thinking is the deliberate and systematic means of processing information to arrive at better decisions. Critical thinkers consciously develop habits that may be employed to accurately interpret evidence from the world around them. To do so, you need to develop the following skills.

#### DEFINITIONS:

<b>Interpreting</b>	Understanding the significance or meaning of information.
<b>Analyzing</b>	Breaking information down into its parts.
<b>Connecting</b>	Making connections between related items or pieces of information.
<b>Integrating</b>	Connecting and combining information to understand the relationship between the information.
<b>Evaluating</b>	Judging the value, credibility, or strength of something
<b>Reasoning</b>	Creating an argument through logical steps.
<b>Deducing</b>	Forming a logical opinion about something based on the information or evidence that is available.
<b>Inferring</b>	Figuring something out through reasoning based on assumptions and ideas.
<b>Generating</b>	Producing new information, ideas, products, or ways of viewing things.



There are nine basic intellectual standards outlined by the Foundation for Critical Thinking that, when practiced, provide the means of arriving at reliable conclusions to support leader decisions. Here are the standards and questions to ask to facilitate critical thinking.

**INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS:**

<b>Clarity</b>	Could you elaborate further? Could you give an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?
<b>Accuracy</b>	How could we check on that? How could we verify or test that?
<b>Precision</b>	Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?
<b>Relevance</b>	How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?
<b>Depth</b>	What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?
<b>Breadth</b>	Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?
<b>Logic</b>	Does all this make sense together? Does what you say follow from the evidence?
<b>Significance</b>	Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?
<b>Fairness</b>	Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others? Do I have any assumptions, intuition, prejudice, or stereotypes around this issue?