

Critical Thinking and Problem Solving for Effective Decision-Making



Course outline

Provided by: Performance Management Consultants – PMC Training

Reference no.	137-16
Duration	1.00 day(s) 6:00 hours ¹
Website link	https://pmctraining.com/training/critical-thinking-and-problem-solving-for-effective-decision-making/

An Essential Competency In Today's Workplace

Mastering critical thinking and problem-solving skills can help you make better decisions or recommendations- an essential competency in today's knowledge workplaces. Critical thinking helps you to examine and improve thought processes, ask the right questions, challenge assumptions and consider varying viewpoints. Effective problem-solving helps you to properly identify and systematically work through a problem in a comprehensive manner, ensuring clarity when it comes time to make decisions or recommendations.

This course will demonstrate how critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making work optimally together, and will provide hands-on practice with tools that you can apply to your everyday workday tasks, big or small.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this workshop, you will be able to:

- Define critical thinking and identify your critical thinking styles
- Work through the critical thinking process to build, analyze and evaluate varying viewpoints
- Improve key critical thinking skills, including active listening and questioning
- Analyze context and information to clearly understand and identify a problem
- Apply problem solving steps and tools
- Identify appropriate solutions using specific approaches
- Select the best technique for making decisions
- Avoid common decision-making mistakes

¹ The course hours reflect teaching time that often correlate with continuing education credits (CEC) or professional development units (PDU). Please check with your profession's governing body, as there is no universal approach.

Workshop topics

Maximizing the Power of Your Brain

- Critical thinking and problem-solving the key to effective decision making
- The Iceberg Principle and the Understanding-Resolution Ration

Critical Thinking

- Definition of a Critical Thinker
- Critical thinking behaviours: active listening, probing, Empty Your Bucket
- Identify and evaluate issues and viewpoints
- The 3 C's: context, credibility, and consistency
- Critical thinking worksheet- practice it!

Problem Solving

- The problem-solving process- various models
- Obstacles and counterproductive approaches
- Problem-solving techniques for groups and individuals
- Applying a problem-solving model to a workplace scenario

Decision Making

- Individual and collective decision-making traps
- How to choose: criteria, goals and vision-based decision-making
- Individual and group decision-making tools and techniques
- Decision-making – practical application to a workplace scenario

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course

Who should attend this course?

Anyone who is required to problem solve on the job or make important project, department or organizational decisions or recommendations