# Critical Thinking and Problem Solving Skills

# Problem-Solving Skills

- Problem-Solving is the process of working through details of a problem to reach a solution.

- Problem solving may include mathematical or systematic operations and can be a gauge of an individual's critical thinking skills.

- Problem solving may also include your personal and professional life.

# Problem-Solving

- The older you get the more troubles you will face. Learning problem solving skills will help you dealing with the problems you may face.
- Problems may include:
  - Medical Concerns
  - Balancing a Budget
  - Relocating or Moving
  - Picking a Career
  - Buying a House or a Car
  - Starting a Family

# Problem-Solving Skills

1. Identify the Problem (Admitting there's a problem).
2. Analyze the problem, look at it from different angles.
3. Brainstorm and come up with a several possible solutions.
4. List all the possible solutions
5. Decide which solution fits the situation best.
6. Take action (Executing the plan).

# Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or what to believe.
- Critical thinking is that mode of thinking about any subject, content, or problem in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it.
- It includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking.

# Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking.

- It entails effective communication and problem-solving abilities, as well as a commitment to think for yourself.

- Critical thinking help you become more dependent.

# Why Learn How To Think Critically

- Making good decisions is a quality that will help you to lead the life you want. Good decision makers are sought after in the workplace and can use their skills to excel in their career and in life. "Therefore, understanding how to make effective decisions is very important to your success.

- Thinking critically will help to make smarter decisions in all aspect of your life and help you stay out of trouble.

# How To Develop Critical Thinking Skills

- Understand the links between ideas.

- Determine the importance and relevance of arguments and ideas.

- Recognize, build and appraise arguments.

- Identify inconsistencies and errors in reasoning.

- Approach problems in a consistent and systematic way.

# Problem If You Can't Think Critically

- Much of our thinking when left to itself, is biased, distorted, partial, uninformed, or downright prejudiced.
- Many people choose to ignore the facts.
- Some people already have their mind made up.
- Some people refuse to take the time to actually think about the situation.
- Some people rather have everybody give them the answer instead of trying to figure it out on their own.

# Independent Thinking

- Independent thinking is the ability to make sense of things based on your own experiences and observations.

- Independent thinkers are confident in their abilities and understand that making mistakes is a natural process to coming up with the right solutions.

# Thinking Independently

- Why is it good for teachers to challenge students to find their own answer?
  - If teachers always give the students the answer without challenging them to think it through first, can lead to students never developing how to think independently.
- When students and people are not challenged to do their best then they may never know what they are capable of.