

LEVELING UP WITH A BOSS LEVEL BRAIN

**Leveraging the Power of Your Own Brain
in a World Using Artificial Intelligence**

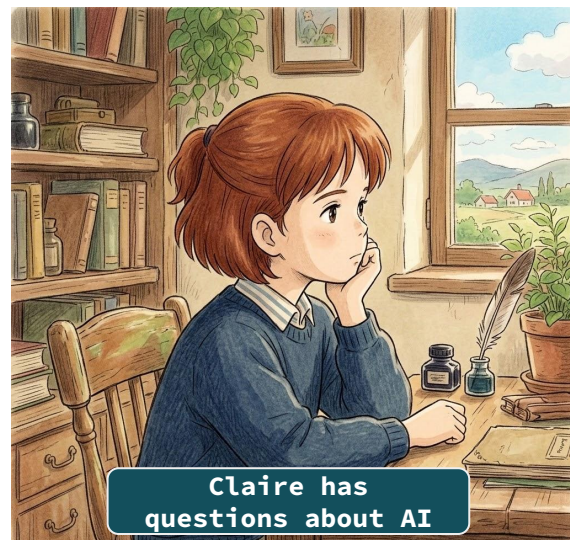
INTRO TO POWER THINKING

There are people who scroll past responses from AI without questioning it. And there are people who stop, look closer, and ask: *"Wait, is that actually true? Who benefits from me believing this? What am I missing?"*

The second kind of person isn't smarter by default. They're trained differently.

This course offers you an opportunity to level up on that training.

We call it **Power Thinking**: the ability to reason clearly, question confidently, and solve problems that actually matter, even when the world is trying to think for you.



Claire has
questions about AI



<Future additions> Possibly add voice to the character on the page that voices questions that a young person might have about using AI? (Am I really thinking if I use AI? How am I learning if AI does my assignments for me?).

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN HERE

This isn't about memorizing facts. AI can do that. This is about building skills that AI can't replace, and learning how to use AI as a tool instead of letting it use you.

You'll learn to:

Break down
problems that seem
impossible

Spot when someone,
or something, is
trying to
mislead you

Build arguments
that hold up

Make decisions
that you can stand
behind

Think in ways that
are uniquely,
powerfully yours

**Let me ask you, which of these things are you most interested in?
Select the action above. If you're not interested in any of that
yet, that's okay too.**



Text in bold appears 15 seconds after the items on the stage appear.

HISTORY'S POWER THINKERS

Every skill or thinking tool shared in this course is used by the sharpest people in the history of the world including, scientists who rebuild civilizations from scratch, strategists who see ten moves ahead, investigators who find the truth buried under noise, and leaders who understand people deeply enough to move them.

You don't have to be any of those things yet. You just have to be willing to think harder than the average person is bothering to.

Select each of the images below to learn how each was a power thinker.



Ieyasu Tokugawa
Shogun of Japan



Bernard Spilisbury
Criminologist



Catherine the Great
Russian Empress



Dwight Eisenhower
American Forces Leader



Elizabeth I
English Queen



Images of visionary leaders fade into anime characters on next page.

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Tokugawa Ieyasu
possessed a combination of organizational genius and military aptitude that allowed him to assert control of a unified Japan.

Ieyasu Tokugawa
Shogun of Japan

Bernard Spilsbury
demonstrated his ability to draw conclusions from minimal evidence and present them convincingly in court established him as a leading forensic pathologist.

Bernard Spilsbury
Criminologist

Catherine the Great
championed Enlightenment ideals, spearheading judicial reforms and scientific thinking. Drafting her own legal code.

Catherine the Great
Russian Empress

Dwight Eisenhower
demonstrated his strategic brilliance in the military by leading the Allied forces during World War II, particularly in orchestrating the D-Day invasion.

Dwight Eisenhower
American Forces Leader

Elizabeth I
was a brilliant lateral thinker because she adeptly navigated complex political landscapes, using her education and rhetorical skills to maintain power and influence.

Elizabeth I
English Queen



Images of visionary leaders fade into anime characters on next page.

POWER THINKERS IN THE WORLD OF ANIME AND MANGA

Because the author of this course, loves anime and manga, we will start by examining these power thinking skills from the perspective of characters like the ones below. Throughout this course, we'll encounter examples from these characters and others as they: think strategically several steps ahead, solve problems creatively, search for truths despite distractions, and understand the people around them.



Luffy B.Monkey -
One Piece



Coco -
Witch Hat Atelier



Mao Mao -
Apothecary Diaries



Ishigami Senku -
Dr. Stone

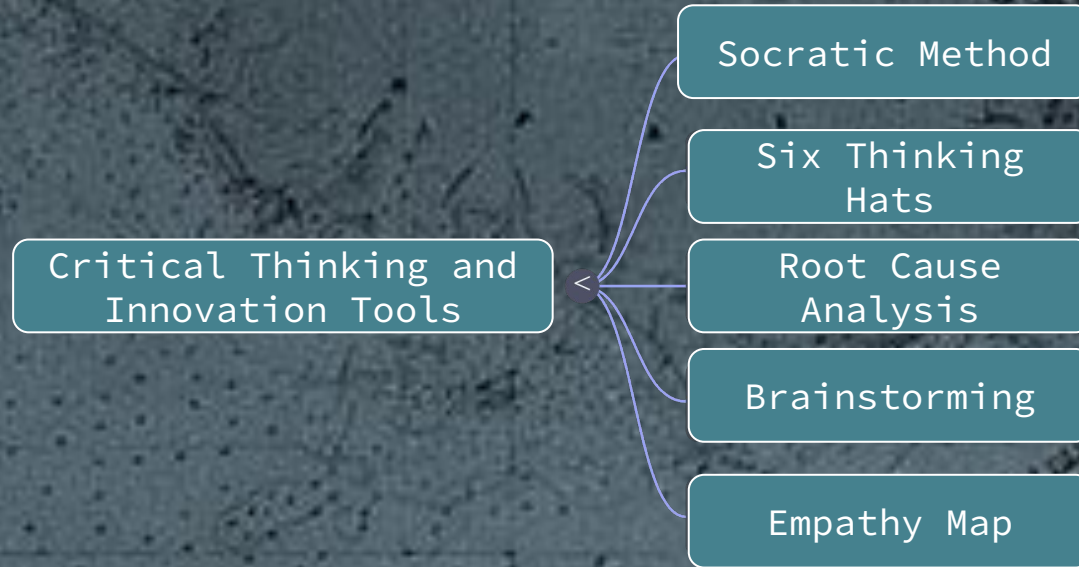


Midoriya Izuku -
My Hero Academia



MAP OF OUR THINKING TOOLS

Let's explore a map of these tools. Select each of the tools to get a preview of what you'll learn here. By the way, you can use this list as a menu to navigate through the course.



This is a navigation menu that tracks which of the tools the learner has reviewed.

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING

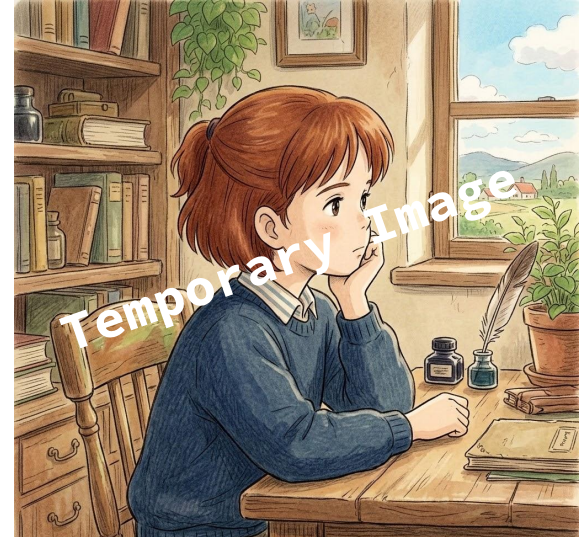
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CRITICAL THINKING

Have you ever heard adults say “Critical Thinking Skills” are very important, and then wonder what they mean when they say that? When it comes down to it, all critical thinking is is the ability to review what’s put in front of you or evaluate whether it’s plausible or not.

You’re asking questions like:
Is this real?

- What impact will this have on me or others?
- If it does have an impact, who will it affect?
- What can we assume because of this statement or fact?

The questions you ask should bring you to “well-reasoned conclusions” that are tested against measurable standards. This “Power Thinking” helps you avoid slipshod, biased and distorted thinking.



Animation: Text appears one after another. Bullets appear, timing slightly faster than paragraph text.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN IN A WORLD WITH AI?

Artificial Intelligence or AI is allowing us to compile and write information faster and can potentially make us lazy. Why should we learn to write for ourselves when AI can do it for us?

Being able to evaluate what comes out of AI becomes even more important. Remember, we'll be reviewing the 5 Thinking Tools for Power Thinking throughout this course.

As we go through each of these tools in the upcoming modules, you will review relevant examples acted by characters in various anime. You'll also explore how to use these tools for practical problems you might need to solve at school or in your life.



Are you ready to find out whether you're a critical thinker?



Animation: Text appears one after another. Bullets appear, timing slightly faster than paragraph text.

CRITICAL THINKING POWER TOOLS



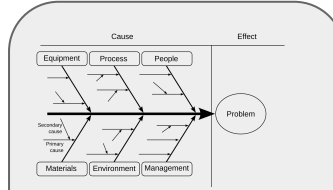
Socratic
Questioning

Checking answers by
acting as an interviewer



Parallel
Thinking

Looking at a problem
or solution from
multiple perspectives



Root Cause
Analysis

Finding out where and
how something is
broken



Brainstorming

Partnering with others
to get as many ideas as
possible



Design Thinking

Determining if the
solution works for
actual humans

Why only these 5 tools?

Why only these 5 tools: <opens up pop up> These five tools are appropriate because they shift you from a passive consumer of AI information to an active, critical evaluator. Ultimately, these tools instill a healthy skepticism and intellectual independence, ensuring you guide the technology rather than letting the technology dictate your thinking.

ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

Before we go on, let's find out if you are a critical thinker? Let's find out.
Answer the following questions:

1. You're assigned a massive group project and everything is already going wrong.
What do you do first?

- ☐ A) I just start doing something—anything—to stop the immediate panic and fix the first obvious problem I see.
- ☐ B) I pause to define the actual challenge clearly, asking the group, "Wait, what is the 'Question at Issue' we are really trying to solve here?".
- ☐ C) I just wait for the teacher to tell us what to do and use my own past experience to guess the best way to finish it.



*Thoughtful Tanuki
wants to help you
through this inquiry.*

What is a Tanuki?



What is a Tanuki: <User clicks text and a pop-up appears> A tanuki is a species of canid known as the Japanese raccoon dog (*Nyctereutes viverrinus*), which is native to Japan. In Japanese folklore, tanuki are depicted as mischievous shapeshifters with supernatural abilities. What better guide to help you hone your thinking skills <Include photo of an actual tanuki>.

ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

Thank you. Keep on going.

2. You find a TikTok "life hack" or a news story that sounds cool. How do you handle that info?

- ☐ A) If it sounds right or matches what I already believe, I share it immediately to prove my point.
- ☐ B) I verify the accuracy, looking for actual evidence and separating what is just a "cool opinion" from what is a well-supported fact.
- ☐ C) I don't really think about it; checking facts takes too long, and I'll probably forget the info in five minutes anyway.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



For tracking only: B points to higher level thinking as do all answers "b."

ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

You're doing great. Just a few more questions.

3. You're using an AI (like ChatGPT) to help with homework or to explore a new hobby. How do you talk to it?

- ☐ A) I take whatever it says as total fact if it sounds smart and gives me a long answer.
- ☐ B) I act as an "ignorant inquirer," and ask multiple questions of the AI to find the assumptions and logic behind its answers.
- ☐ C) I just ask for the "bottom line" or the final answer so I can finish my task as fast as possible.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

This one might be a little harder to answer. Just be honest, that's okay.

4. Your phone dies in the middle of a trip, or you fail a test you thought you studied for. What's your move?

- ☐ A) I blame someone else—like my parents for not reminding me to charge it or the teacher for making a "bad" test.
- ☐ B) I try to figure out the actual system or process failure or what caused me to not have my phone charged up, and ask questions like "Why don't I have a charging routine?".
- ☐ C) I just figure it was a one-time fluke and hope it doesn't happen again.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

How do you handle debates with friends?

5. Your friend group is debating a controversial topic (like school dress codes or a new video game). How do you join in?

- ☐ A) I use **adversarial argument**, trying to "win" the debate and show my friends why their opinions are wrong.
- ☐ B) I use **Parallel Thinking**, asking the group to look at the facts first, then the risks, and then the benefits.
- ☐ C) I only share my feelings and ignore any logic or facts that make me feel uncomfortable.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

Just two more questions, you're doing great!

6. You have a really strong opinion about a celebrity or a trend. How do you handle your own beliefs?

- ☐ A) I just assume my beliefs are "true" unless someone can prove to me, with massive evidence, that I'm wrong.
- ☐ B) I am **self-corrective**, meaning I intentionally bring my hidden assumptions to the surface to see if they actually make sense.
- ☐ C) I assume that if my logic sounds good to me, my basic starting ideas must be 100% correct.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

This is the last question... We're almost done.

7. You're planning a club event or a party and need new ideas. What's your goal during brainstorming?

- ☐ A) I criticize "bad" ideas immediately so the group doesn't waste time on anything too weird or unrealistic.
- ☐ B) I defer judgment and go for volume, knowing that "wild ideas" and "provocations" are the best way to find a truly creative solution.
- ☐ C) I try to find a solution that is safe and looks exactly like what we did last year.



Thoughtful Tanuki wants to help you through this inquiry.



ARE YOU A CRITICAL THINKER?

Here are your results:

- **Mostly B's: The Power Thinking Legend** You aren't just "smart", you are a cultivated critical thinker who takes mindful command of your own mind. You look for **root causes instead of blaming people**, and you use structured tools to make sure your conclusions are actually solid.
- **Mostly A's or C's: Stuck in the "Intelligence Trap"** You might be caught in the "intelligence trap," using your brain to defend what you already think instead of exploring new possibilities. You might be focusing on **symptoms (firefighting)** rather than systems, or using **adversarial arguments** that stop you from seeing the full picture. To improve, try adopting a "Beginner's Mindset" and asking more "Why" questions!



User selects next to move on.

YOUR JOURNEY STARTS HERE



The great news is, you can build all the skills for critical thinking by honing the craft of using the five thinking tools: Socratic Questioning, Parallel Thinking (Six Hats), Brainstorming, Design Thinking and Root Cause Analysis.

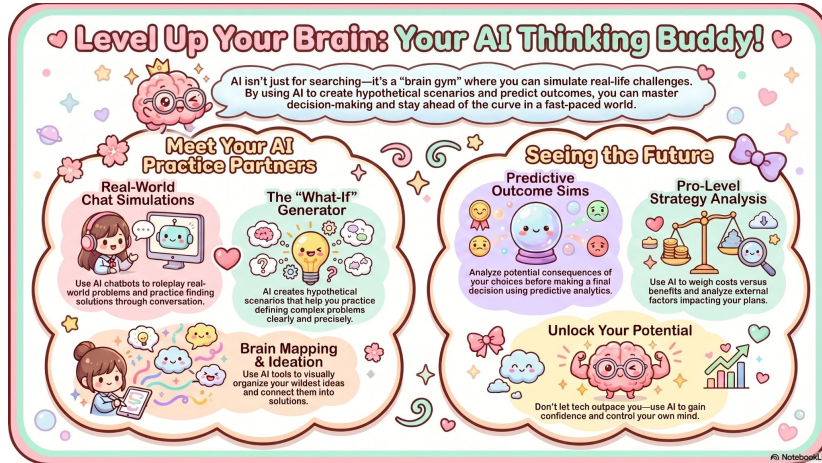
More importantly mastering these tools will help ensure that you have skills that look good on a resume or will be useful to you in real life whether that's socially or at work.

Are you ready to move on and learn how to become a power Socratic Questioner? Hit the next button.



EXTRA SLIDES

By the way, in this course, you'll learn how to use AI as a thinking partner to help build your skills and actively use the "Thinking Tools" you'll learn here. Here's just a preview of how we'll use AI.



Select the image to
view a larger version



♥ Level Up Your Brain: Your AI Thinking Buddy! ♥



AI isn't just for searching—it's a "brain gym" where you can simulate real-life challenges. By using AI to create hypothetical scenarios and predict outcomes, you can master decision-making and stay ahead of the curve in a fast-paced world.

Meet Your AI Practice Partners

Real-World Chat Simulations



Use AI chatbots to roleplay real-world problems and practice finding solutions through conversation.

The "What-If" Generator



AI creates hypothetical scenarios that help you practice defining complex problems clearly and precisely.

Brain Mapping & Ideation



Use AI tools to visually organize your wildest ideas and connect them into solutions.

Seeing the Future

Predictive Outcome Sims



Analyze potential consequences of your choices before making a final decision using predictive analytics.

Pro-Level Strategy Analysis



Use AI to weigh costs versus benefits and analyze external factors impacting your plans.

Unlock Your Potential



Don't let tech outpace you—use AI to gain confidence and control your own mind.



HOW AI CAN BE USED BY YOU

Let's Think Happy! The 6 Magical Thinking Hats



MEET THE THINKING HATS!

The "Six Thinking Hats" is a system where people metaphorically "wear" different colored hats to represent specific modes of thought. By switching hats, individuals or groups can ensure they are exploring a problem from every possible angle—facts, feelings, risks, and creativity—leading to smarter decisions and better teamwork.

THE WHITE HAT: THE FACT-FINDER

Focuses on data, figures, and information that is known or needed.

Use it for Research: Check the grading rubric and due dates before starting a big essay.

THE RED HAT: THE HEART

Represents feelings, hunches, and intuition without needing to explain them.

Use it for Honesty: Admitting you feel "vibes" of anxiety about a group presentation.

THE BLACK HAT: THE SAFETY CHECK

Signifies caution and critical thinking to identify why something might not work.

Use it for Planning: Identifying that a club meeting time might conflict with everyone's sports practice.

MORE HATS FOR BIG IDEAS!

THE YELLOW HAT: THE SUNSHINE

Symbolizes brightness and optimism, looking for the value and benefits of an idea.

Use it for Motivation: Seeing how a difficult volunteer project will look amazing on your college application.

THE GREEN HAT: THE CREATOR

Focuses on creativity, possibilities, new ideas, and different ways of doing things.

Use it for Innovation: Brainstorming a unique viral theme for the school's winter formal dance.

THE BLUE HAT: THE LEADER

The control mechanism used to manage the thinking process and set the agenda.

Use it for Focus: Keeping your group project team on task so you finish before the bell rings.

