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Some Thoughts on Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is typically defined as the ability to think clearly and rationally and, of vital consequence, it includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking. The question that this paper would have you consider is “How clear, rational, reflective, and independent are your thoughts?” Granted, we all like to consider ourselves rational, independent thinkers, but this can hardly be the true. To illustrate, asked if we have a sense of humor we would reply in the affirmative – but we know enough people to realize that this is not always the case. So, another more important question each of us should ask ourselves relative to thinking critically should be, “Why do I think the way I do?” This paper will begin with the assertion that all of our thoughts have been indelibly constructed by our society and culture. Simply stated, Dr. Geert Hofstede takes the position that each of us has experienced the “effective programming of the mind.” If we accept his opinion then one more question in our exercise toward effective critical thought should be, “Why do I continue to think the way I do?” This paper will address these questions and offer some thoughts for your (critical) consideration.

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