



## CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND LIFE-LESSONS FOR LEADERS OR HOW TO TAKE YOUR BRAIN OUT OF AUTOPILOT AND SURVIVE TRIAL BY FIRE IN THE REAL WORLD!!!

### Why THIS course?

As leaders, it is frequently necessary for us to think critically while problem-solving and making decisions. As an example, you need to know – in the moment – that an issue needs more than a once-over. You need to be aware of situations that require critical thinking and, in many cases, step back from the “front-line” to see the “big picture”. We may need to disengage from a passionate... discussion about resolving an issue, consider the parameters framing that issue, and assess if a potential solution is even a reasonable approach. This is especially true for the solutions we ourselves have proposed or championed! This type of methodology, based on critical thinking, will be demanded of us as leaders – over and over... for the rest of our careers.

As leaders – we must earn the trust and respect of those we lead. It's our responsibility to ensure that we're creating the best possible environment for our teams to be successful. Understanding how to apply critical thinking, including how to communicate, is vital for both the organization's progress and culture. If we need to challenge the status quo and drive change, we must consider how we engage others; communicating the answer is easily as important as actually knowing the answer!

### Course Objectives:

- Discuss and develop a working definition of critical thinking
- Explore the impact of failure on critical thinking
- Analyze the concepts of failure, “preventable” failure, and failure avoidance
- Is “common” sense a valid expectation? Is it even a valid expression?
- Discuss the concept of “Sanity Check” and how it applies in real-life situations
- Problem-solving with critical thinking and sanity checks as the first “tools” out of the box
- Comprehend the integral roles of failure AND critical thinking in long-term success
- Utilize real-world problems to understand how critical thinking and sanity checks have both helped us and failed us in the past
  - o Problem solving philosophy
  - o “Good enough” vs “Root Cause”
  - o Real-world applications focus
  - o Working group discussions