

Critical Thinking and Structured Analysis

Course Duration: 5 Days

Course Overview

The Analyst's Edge: Critical Thinking and Structured Analysis is a five-day, instructor-led online program designed to strengthen analytic rigor and foster deep self-awareness of individual thinking processes. Grounded in ICD 203 and inspired by The Foundation for Critical Thinking, this course does not prescribe "what" or "how" to think. Instead, it emphasizes metacognition, enabling participants to recognize, evaluate, and refine their own cognitive strategies for more objective, unbiased analysis.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Objectives

- Critical Thinking Core Concepts: Biases, mindsets, points of view, and assumptions, along with their direct impact on analysis in various settings.
- Intelligence Community Tradecraft: Standards defined in ICD 203 that ensure objectivity and minimize distortion, even under competing agendas or pressures.
- Structured Analytic Techniques: Hypothesis generation, divergent and convergent thinking strategies, challenge analysis, foresight analysis, and decision-support practices.
- Principles from The Foundation for Critical Thinking: Nine Intellectual Standards (e.g., clarity, relevance, accuracy), Eight Elements of Thought (e.g., purpose, questions, assumptions), and Eight Intellectual Traits (e.g., humility, integrity, fairmindedness).



APPLIED
TECHNOLOGY
ACADEMY

Contact Us



800.674.3550



2151 W. Hillsboro Blvd., Ste 210
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442

Connect With Us



Course Outline

Module 1: Day One

- Introduction
- Critical Thinking
- Biases
- Logical Fallacies

Module 2: Day Two

- Questions
- Structured Analysis
- Brainstorming
- Assumptions

Module 3: Day Three

- Problem Restatement
- Deception
- Hypotheses
- Analysis of Competing Hypotheses

Module 4: Day Four

- Indicators
- Challenge Analysis
- Pros Cons Fixes

Module 5: Day Five

- Capstone