



THE ART OF

# CRITICAL THINKING



# WHAT IS A WORKSHOP?



The Hunger Games (2012)





How to Train Your Dragon (2010)



TAKE 3 MINUTES AND WRITE DOWN:

- Your definition of critical thinking
- A situation in which you thought through something *critically*
- A situation in which you did not think through something *critically*

# DEFINING CRITICAL THINKING

*kritikos* (discerning judgment) & *criterion* (standards)

Critical thinking

= the ability to discern judgment based on standards.

“Critical thinking is **reasonable, reflective** thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do.” Robert Ennis

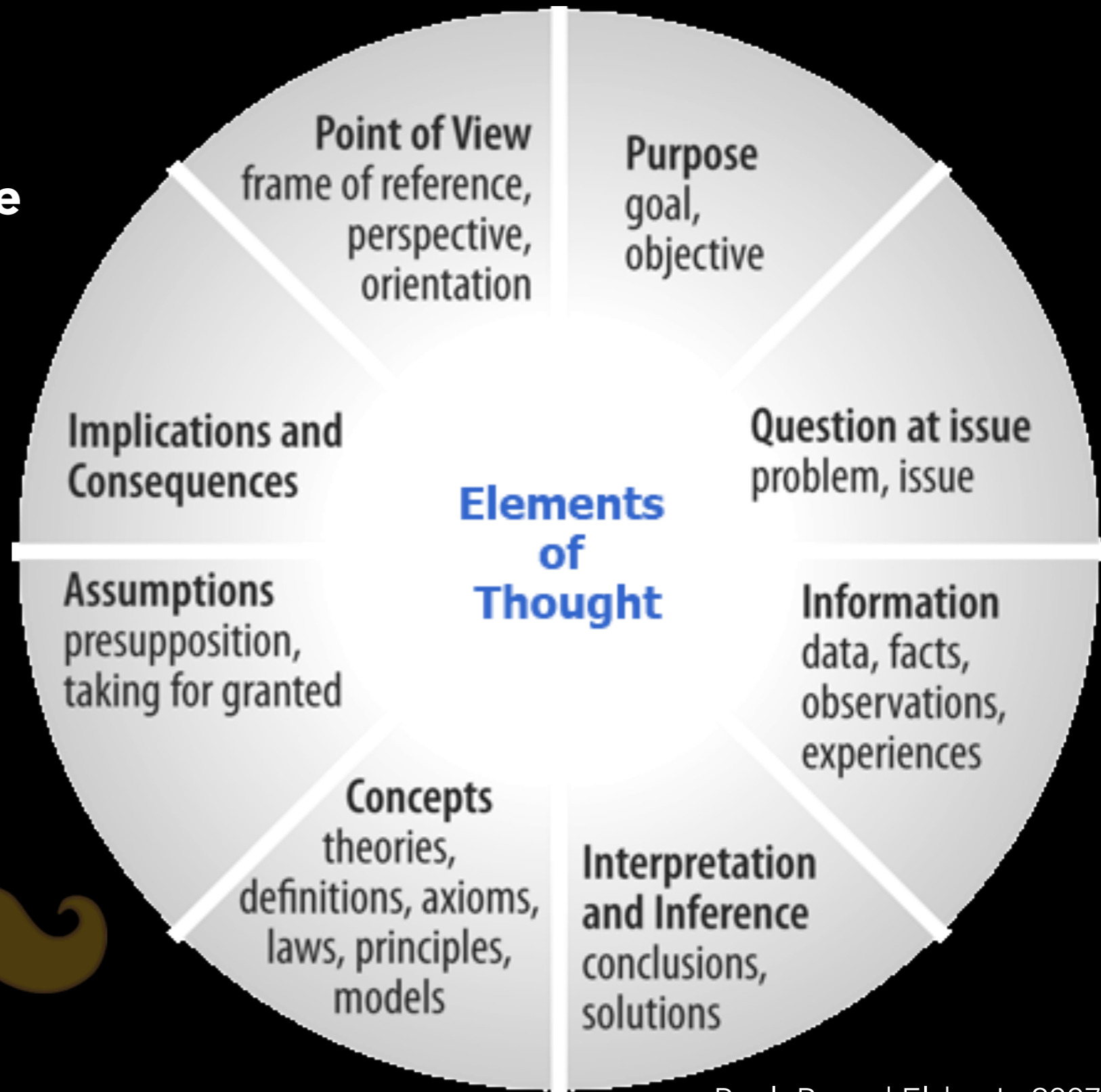
“Critical thinking is **skilful**, responsible thinking that is conducive to good judgement because it is sensitive to context, relies on **criteria**, and is **self-correcting**.” Mathew Lipman

“Critical thinking is thinking about your thinking, while you’re thinking, in order to make your thinking **better**.” Richard Paul

# DEFINING CRITICAL THINKING

Critical thinking is **reflective**

**P**ony  
**C**lub  
**A**ssociation  
**Q**ueen  
**V**ictoria  
**III**





# DEFINING CRITICAL THINKING

Critical thinking involves **standards**

**SCALP**  
**F**ederal  
**R**eserve  
**B**ank of  
**DALLAS**

- Clarity**  
Could you elaborate further?  
Could you give me an example?  
Could you illustrate what you mean?
- Accuracy**  
How could we check on that?  
How could we find out if that is true?  
How could we verify or test that?
- Precision**  
Could you be more specific?  
Could you give me more details?  
Could you be more exact?
- Relevance**  
How does that relate to the problem?  
How does that bear on the question?  
How does that help us with the issue?
- Depth**  
What factors make this a difficult problem?  
What are some of the complexities of this question?  
What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?
- Breadth**  
Do we need to look at this from another perspective?  
Do we need to consider another point of view?  
Do we need to look at this in other ways?
- Logic**  
Does all this make sense together?  
Does your first paragraph fit in with your last?  
Does what you say follow from the evidence?
- Significance**  
Is this the most important problem to consider?  
Is this the central idea to focus on?  
Which of these facts are most important?
- Fairness**  
Do I have any vested interest in this issue?  
Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

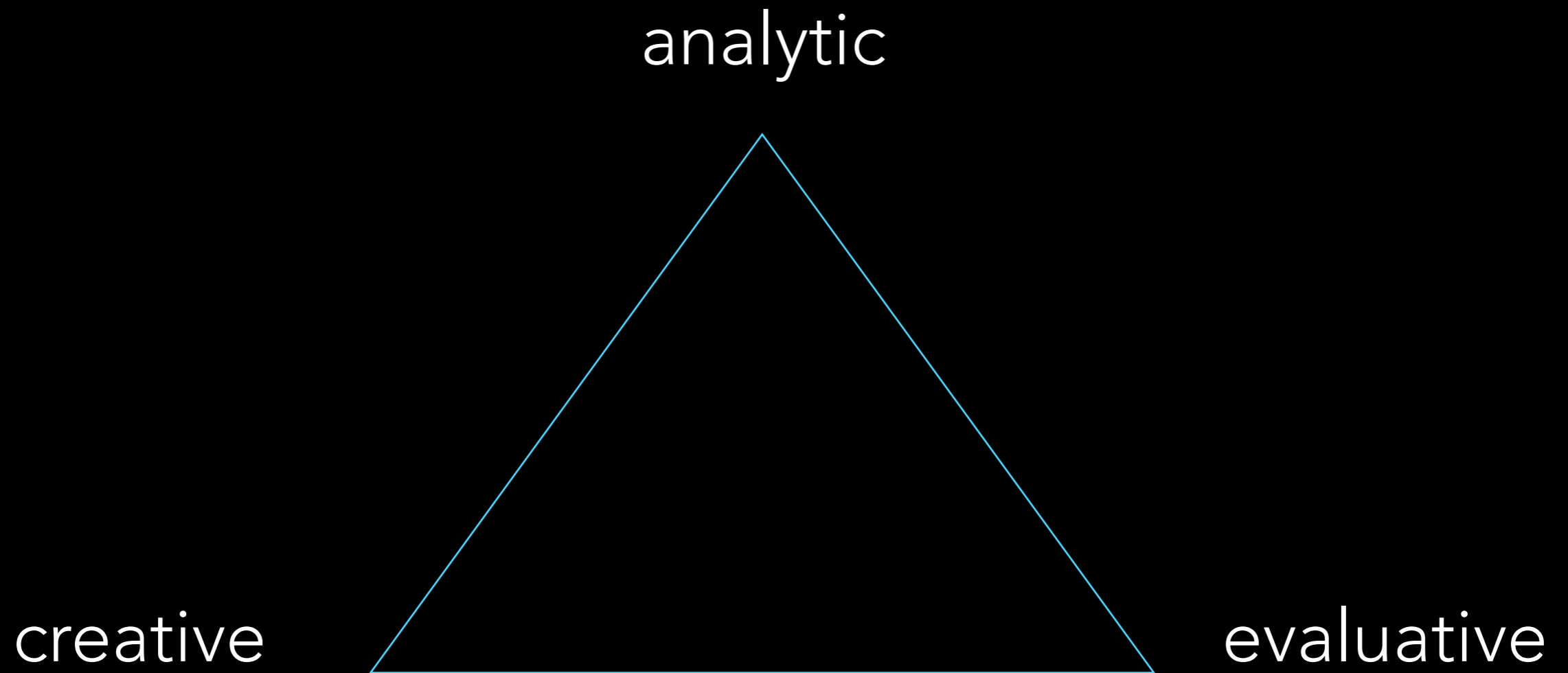








# 3 PARTS OF CRITICAL THINKING







# EXERCISE 1 - INSTRUCTION

- In groups of 8
- Think **critically** about the video and analyse the reasoning of the speaker using the 8 elements of thought and the 9 standards of reasoning.
- Use those big sheets of paper to represent your process of critical **deconstruction**
- Be back in **20 minutes**





# SOCRATIC QUESTIONING




The Death of Socrates by Jacques-Louis David (1787)



# DEFINING THE SOCRATIC METHOD

- A discussion led by a person who does nothing but ask **questions**, where each question is based upon the response given to the prior question.
- A distinctive method of thought to explore the ramifications of certain opinions and to open new realms of **self-knowledge**.
- **Systematic, deep** and **disciplined**

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is visible above the water surface, while the much larger, submerged part is visible below. A text box is overlaid on the submerged part of the iceberg.

**PURPOSE:** expose  
the logic of  
someone's thought

# THE SOCRATIC METHOD IN 5 STEPS

Step 1: Formulate a **Statement**

Step 2: Clarify by asking a couple of **Why**

Step 3: Examine it and try to find **Exceptions**

Step 4: **Nuance** (modify) the initial statement

Step 5: **Challenge** the new statement

Use the **8 elements** to analyse and the **9 criteria** to evaluate



# EXERCISE 2 - INSTRUCTIONS

- In groups of 4
- Select a **statement** for inquiry, and *socratise* it.
- 1 of you plays Socrates, 1 plays the explorer, the 2 others observe, evaluate and report.
- Follow Stringfellow Barr's rules for productive dialogue
- Be back in **15 minutes**

"I don't believe I have to be loyal to one side or the other, I'm simply asking **questions.**"





“Picture all experts as if they were mammals. Never be a spectator of unfairness or stupidity. Seek out argument and disputation for their own sake; the grave will supply plenty of time for silence.”

Christopher Hitchens

