

# Critical & Analytical Thinking Framework

This one-page framework gives you 18 core questions to apply to any situation, event, or decision. Use them as a checklist to dig deeper, uncover bias, and arrive at the 'final why.'

## ■ *Clarifying & Context Questions*

- What exactly is happening here, and what do I know for certain?
- Who is involved, and what roles, motives, or interests do they have?
- Where did this information come from—what's the source, and how reliable is it?
- What's the historical, cultural, or situational context I need to understand this fully?

## ■ *Cause & Effect Questions*

- What caused this event or situation to happen (the immediate triggers vs. deeper roots)?
- Who benefits from this, and who is harmed by it?
- What are the short-term consequences? What about long-term ripple effects?
- If this didn't happen, what would likely be different right now?

## ■ ■ *Assumption & Bias Questions*

- What assumptions am I making without proof?
- What biases (mine, theirs, systemic) might be shaping how this is presented or perceived?
- What's missing from this picture—whose voices or perspectives are left out?

## ■ *Problem-Solving & Alternative Views*

- What are at least three alternative explanations or solutions I haven't considered?
- What evidence would challenge or disprove the explanation I'm leaning toward?
- How would someone who disagrees with me explain this event or choice?

## ■ *Final Why & Meaning*

- Why does this matter to me, my community, or the bigger picture?
- What larger pattern, system, or "root cause" does this connect to?
- What's the "final why"—the underlying driver beneath the surface reasons?
- Given all of this, what's the most thoughtful action (or non-action) I can take?