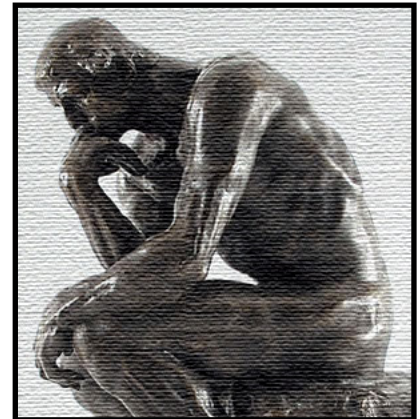
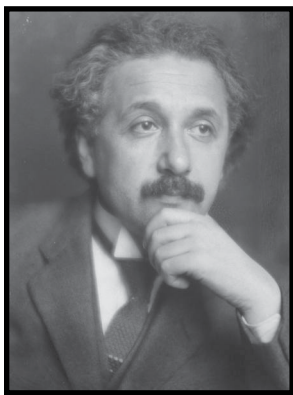


The Critical Thinker by Barbara Kae

Thinking. Something that we all do. Critical thinking is problem solving. Remember those word problems especially the ones with trains arriving at different times and different speeds? Solving them requires critical thinking. The advanced critical thinker not only solves the word problem, he develops the problem first and then solves it. And what employer wouldn't want a skilled problem-solver on his/her team?



The Thinker by Rodin



Albert Einstein as a Young Man

If you are planning to go to college or move up the career ladder, your critical thinking skills may need some improvement. "Many highly intelligent people are poor thinkers. Many people of average intelligence are skilled thinkers. The power of a car is separate from the way the car is driven." This quote by Edward de Bono who is a physician, inventor and author, points out that we may have the equipment but not the necessary skills. Critical thinking is a very deliberate, clear, precise way of examining ourselves and the world in which we live. It enables us to make positive, rational decisions that impact our personal and professional lives. This cognitive process may begin with assumptions or information that is not quite accurate. However, critical thinking allows for the readjustment

of the original assumptions or faulty factual information so that in the end the best choice may be made from the existing data. Selecting informed, solid options should improve your life at work and at home.

Anyone on a debate team can appreciate the reasoned logic of argument. In this case "argument" does not mean a heated discussion with rising tempers but rather a logical deliberation of facts. Before the debate begins, the team studies the given topic. They brainstorm and decide what points to emphasize to impress the judges. They

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Veterans Upward Bound



The Critical Thinker (continued)

also analyze data and study various methods to convince others of their viewpoint. Almost any subject can be debated both pro and con. There are at least nineteen different kinds of debate listed on Wikipedia as well as three different debating strategies. Thinking about thinking could become a full time occupation.

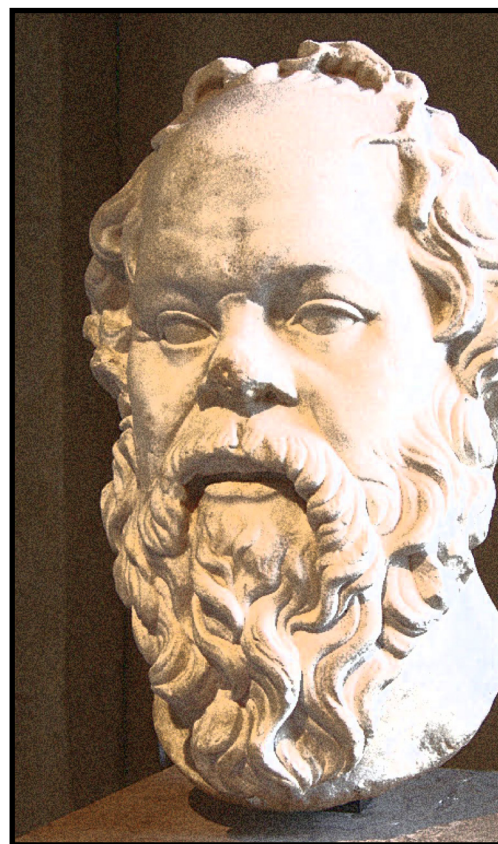
It is not necessary to make critical thinking your sole pursuit in order to improve your skills. Studying how to present arguments or make a logical progression of thought to an accurate conclusion is a good start. Logic used as a form of examining life can be traced back to the time of Socrates and Plato. One simple logic model is the following:

- 1) Every mouse eats cheese.
- 2) Mickey is a mouse.
- 3) Mickey eats cheese.

The first two statements are the foundation from which the conclusion (#3) is reached. Here is a second example:

- 1) All ducks have feet.
- 2) People have feet.
- 3) All people are ducks.

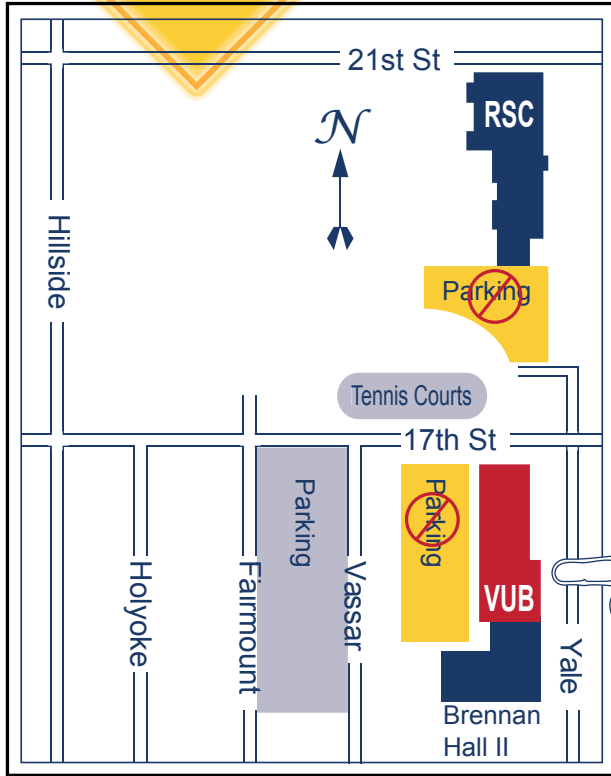
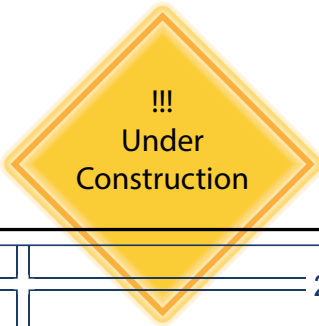
As you can see from these simple examples, logic and reasoning can lead you to inaccurate conclusions if the foundation statements are not clear, precise, accurate, and properly related to one another. The more complicated the issues, the more necessary it becomes to think with clearly defined logic. There are fallacies which are mistakes in reasoning. These occur when inconsistencies are accepted for example: the existence of a world with flat edges. This inaccurate assumption lead to the expectation that Columbus would fall off the edge of the world if he sailed as far as he had planned. In addition to examining basic logic principles, you can begin to apply them. Rather than repeat a viewpoint you have held for ten years or longer, consider the reasons behind it. What prompted you to come to this conclusion? How does it affect your actions or your interaction with others? Sometimes the only reason certain beliefs are held is because they were inherited from our parents. These precepts are not necessarily inaccurate but it would be wise to examine them for our own edification. Knowing yourself is a key step to living the life you want as Socrates would probably agree from the following quote attributed to him "The unexamined life is not worth living."



Head of Socrates
Musee de Louvre, Paris

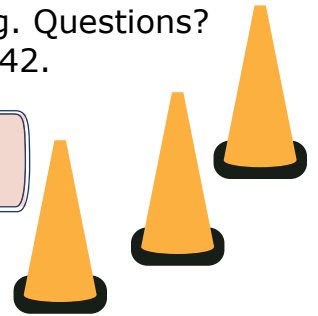
Summer Construction

by Barbara Kae



Wichita State University is working on several construction projects this summer including the parking lot just west of Brennan Hall I. In order to reach the Veteran Upward Bound offices, Veterans will need to enter the building on the east side near Yale Street. After entering the double doors, visitors will need to climb a short flight of stairs to the second floor and from there the elevator is accessible. Directional signs have been posted to aid in the process. There is a large parking lot located between Vassar and Fairmount Street south of 17th Street open for Veteran parking. Questions? Please call our office at 978-6742.

Brennan Hall I
Temporary Entrance

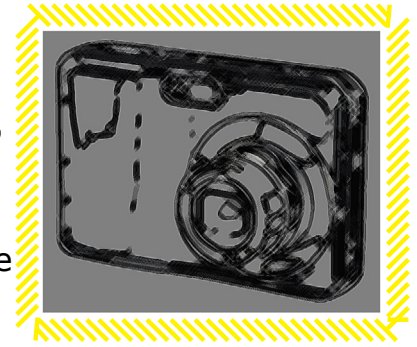


Did you know...

- ◆ that your course syllabus contains important and maybe vital information linked to your college success. Make an extra copy and keep one at home and the other in your backpack. If you don't understand it, call VUB.
- ◆ that college should be treated as important as your job. Go to every class. Be on time. Take accurate notes. Learn how to study effectively. Cramming for tests the night before one is not a good study method.
- ◆ that joining various organizations on campus, participating in cultural activities, experiencing different theater or musical performances, visiting the campus museums, viewing art exhibits or attending additional lectures of visiting professors is a great way to enrich your college experience, expand your world view, increase your personal network, and may even be considered extra credit by some professors.

Five Camera Tips for Better Photos

by Barbara Kae



Technology is wonderful including digital cameras. There are all kinds of software available to help improve your photographs after they have been taken, however, improving your knowledge and skills before you use your camera may save you time, energy and money on photo software that is still on your "to-buy" list. This article contains a little information on basic functions of most digital cameras as well as some easy hints on photo composition.

Hints:

1. Always use the highest pixel density (ppi or pixels per inch) or resolution for the picture setting allowed by your camera.

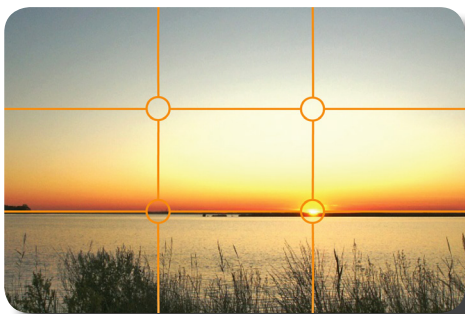
Reason - You can always reduce a photo's size for use in an email, on a website or to print, but you can never add pixels or information to an existing photograph. Keep the original photo as is and use a first generation copy for your email, etc.

2. The best light to shoot portraits is early morning, evening or on overcast days.

Reason - When the sun is at full strength, there are strong shadows that may not flatter your subject. Also people are prone to squint in the strong sunlight. Having a softer or diffused light will give you a better photo. One of the best photos I ever took was in Minnesota on a very misty, overcast day. The portraits looked like studio shots even though they were taken outside because the way the weather conditions diffused the light.

3. Use the shutter button to focus on your main subject first and then move the camera for a better composition.

Reason - An off centered subject is visually more interesting. You can use the rule of thirds. Divide the photo into thirds both directions and locate your subject on one set of intersecting lines. Most digital cameras even those with automatic focus need some input from the photographer. To focus the camera, center your subject in the framing marks (which should appear in the center of your viewfinder) then push the shutter button half way down. This locks the focus. Keeping your finger on the shutter button in the halfway-down position, move the camera so that the subject is off center for a better composition or to include some of the background. At this point push the shutter button the rest of the way down.



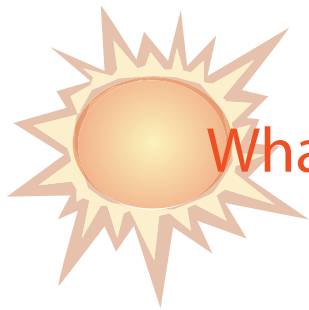
Composition Rule of Thirds

4. Use a tripod.

Reason - This steadies the camera and gives a crisper, more focused shot. This is especially helpful if you are unsteady with a camera or plan to take a longer exposed shot. When taking a photo at night, a tripod is a must. If a tripod is not an option, try taking a deep breath, hold your breath while taking the shot. Then release your breath after you have your photo.

5. Download your photos to your computer using your computer software instead of the software that came with the camera and use a card reader instead of the camera's USB cable.

Reason - Your computer's Windows software is easier to use and using the USB cable can deplete your camera battery quickly. Not a good plan if your camera battery is one of the more expensive kinds. It is better to remove your camera card and use a card reader or plug your card directly into your computer if it has that option. When you save your photos make a folder with a specific name and date for each set of the photos. Make a second copy on a CD and check the computer file to ensure that your photos are copied before deleting anything from your camera card.



What We Like About Summer

by the VUB Staff





Veterans Upward Bound - WSU
1845 Fairmount Street, Box 137
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0137
(316) 978-6742
www.wichita.edu/vub

Mission Statement

The mission is to provide necessary training and support that will enable eligible Veterans to successfully enter into college or any other post-secondary institution.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a Vietnam Era Veteran, or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Director

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity
Wichita State University

1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0205
Tel # (316) 978-6791; Email: ted.ayres@wichita.edu



Veterans Upward Bound-WSU

**1845 Fairmount Street
Campus Box 137
Wichita, Kansas 67260-0137**

Phone: (316) 978-6742

Fax: (316) 978-3676

Toll Free: (877) 312-2586

Email: veterans.upwardbound@wichita.edu

Web Address: www.wichita.edu/vub

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