

A Critical Thinker's Credo

By Frank Primiani, J.D.

I am a flawed thinker, we are flawed thinkers, our society and world are filled with flawed thinking.

I admit that I tend to see the world from a highly limited viewpoint.

I admit that I have numerous known and unknown biases and prejudices in my thinking.

I admit that I sometimes make faulty assumptions, irrational inferences, and do not appreciate the consequences or implications of my thinking.

YET, I wish to improve my thinking. I understand that a useful and productive life is manifested by the quality of one's thinking, and the products that emanate from it.

With this in mind, I will strive to do the following:

1. I will endeavor to self reflect upon my thinking at regular intervals during the day, striving to understand its parts.
2. Before I offer an argument, I will consider the best case against my argument.
3. I will justify an argument by whether it meets certain explicit reasonable standards.
4. I will distinguish the quality of an argument from both the credibility of the person giving it, and from the merit of his or her reasoning.
5. While appreciating the value of passion at times, I will avoid the tendency to allow my emotions to override my intellect, and remain civil, even if I have significant disagreements with others.

Finally, I understand that good thinking is a life-long endeavor that one never really masters. There will always be room for improvement, and I will strive to have the courage to persist.