



Developing A Class to Enhance the Computer / Information Literacy Skills of Residents At The Wayside Christian Mission: A Homeless Shelter ©

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Goals

The University of Louisville (U of L) Libraries' outreach mission is to encourage the development of information literacy (IL) and critical thinking in individuals.

The five objectives in the computing skills class are how to : 1) use Microsoft Word, 2) open an e-mail account, 3) create /update a resume, 4) apply for a job online, and 5) and evaluate information.

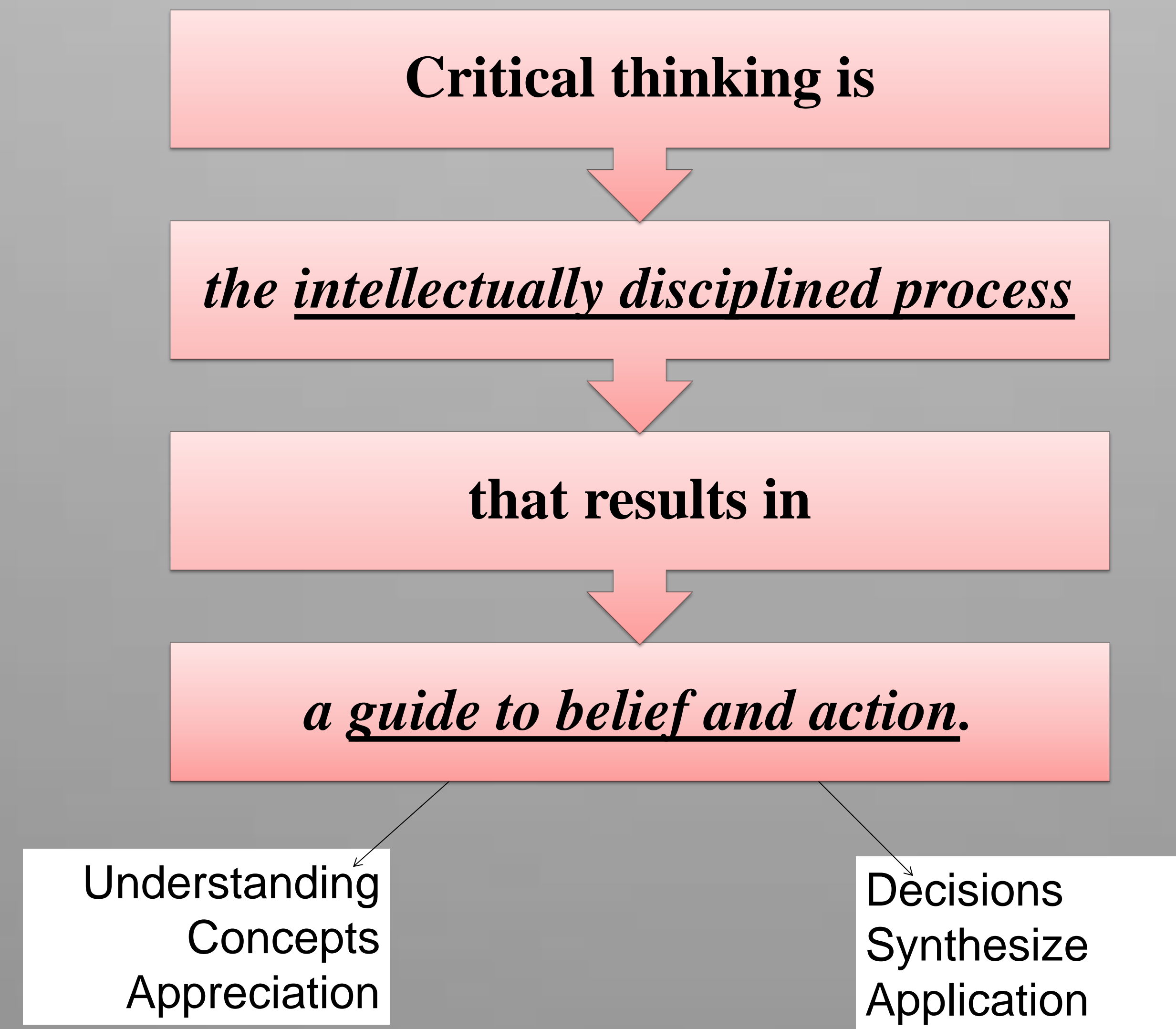
Project Description

In March 2010, a community engagement partnership began between Ekstrom Library and the Wayside Christian Mission for the libraries to provide a computer/Information Literacy skills class, Wayside 100.

The Wayside 100 class began as a four week basic computer class that included course objectives, outcomes, and pre-tests and post-tests. Now in its fifth iteration, the Wayside 100 class time has increased from 60 minutes to 90 minutes, and the number of weeks has doubled from four to eight weeks. Through this class, students are taught Internet basics, beginning word processing, required to open an email account, and create a resume to apply for employment online.

Some students had never used a computer. Without basic computer skills there is little chance that these students will have any possibility of succeeding in college, increasing their educational level, or overcoming homelessness.

One definition of critical thinking¹



Impact

What has this partnership meant to the Wayside Christian Mission?

- Introduction to Psychology Faculty
 - ✓ Parent-child reading lab - Service learning project
- Redesign of Recovery classes to include Critical Thinking
 - ✓ Assessment instruments – iClickers
- Introduction to Entrepreneurial Business School Faculty
 - ✓ Coffee shop / Gift shop service learning project

What has this partnership meant to the University Libraries?

- Networking with other university faculty
- Opportunities for the Librarians to teach Information Literacy skills
- Research opportunities
- Opportunity to develop new skills for working with adult learners
- Recruitment to the University

References

1. Scriven, M. & R. Paul. (1987). Defining Critical Thinking. *Defining Critical Thinking - The Critical Thinking Community*. Retrieved May 9, 2013, from <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766>.
2. Payette, P. (2010). "Will this Thinking be on the Test? Using Critical Thinking to Engage Students in Thinking Deeply in Your Discipline". *Ideas to Action (i2a)*. Retrieved April 29, 2013, from <http://louisville.edu/ideastoaction/resources/presentations>.

Course Description

Course Description and Class Goals:

- Basic understanding of how to use a personal computer
- Basic understanding and use of Microsoft Word
- Basic understanding and use of electronic email
- Basic understanding of different types of sources of information
- Introduction to evaluating information sources

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to use a mouse and keyboard to navigate a personal computer.
- Students will be able to create/save/edit a Microsoft Word document.
- Students will be able to create/save/send/edit an electronic email.
- Students will be able find/apply/submit an online job application.
- Students will be able to use an online catalog to find books available at JCC, U of L, and Louisville Free Public Library (LFPL).
- Students will be able differentiate between a book and a journal.
- Students will be able to pick out keywords/topics for searching.
- Students will become familiar with five criteria (i.e. accuracy, authority, objectivity, currency, coverage) to evaluate information.

Pretest

Computer Module

- Part i: Computer Navigation, Mouse use, Keyboard use
- Part ii: Applying for employment online

Email Module

- Part i: Opening an email account
- Part ii: Sending email to self and Instructor

Word Processing Module

- Part i: Practice typing, cutting and pasting, saving files
- Part ii: Creating/updating resume

Sources/Types of Information Module

- Part i: Search Strategies
- Part ii: Searching for employment

Evaluating Information Module

- Part i: What is good information?
- Part ii: Six criteria to evaluate

Post-test



Cohorts from Spring 2010 and Fall 2010 with their plaques after passing the final.