



Critical Thinking

Aim to:

Understand the role of critical thinking at postgraduate level study

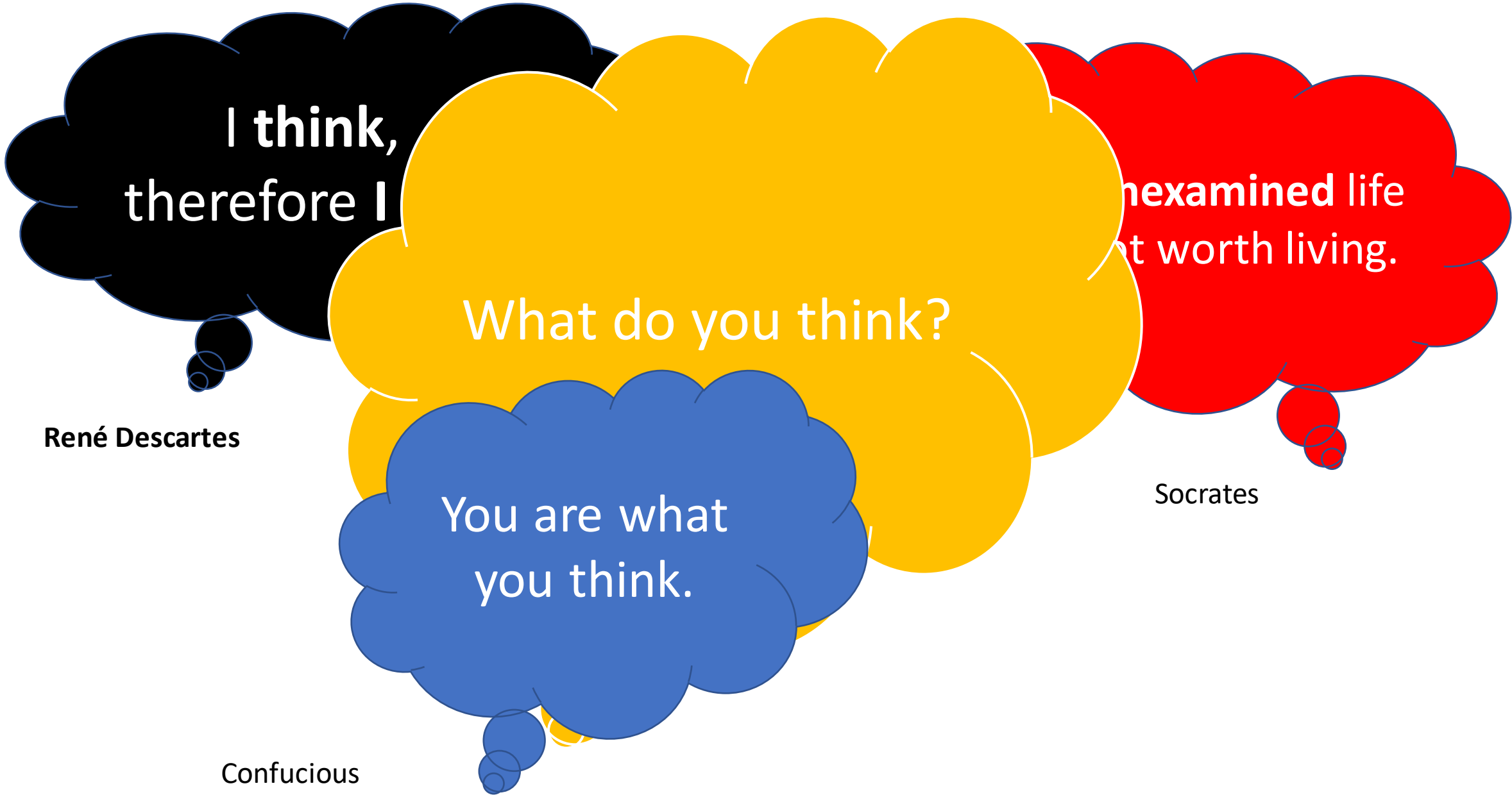
Explore processes for developing and refining question

Demonstrate critical thinking in response to different evidence

- To develop the academic knowledge and practical skills required to successfully engage in postgraduate study and research.

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of the academic skills necessary to undertake further postgraduate study.

Demonstrate competency in systematically reflecting on critical reading and writing skills and develop key targets for developing own practice.



I think,
therefore I am.

René Descartes

What do you think?

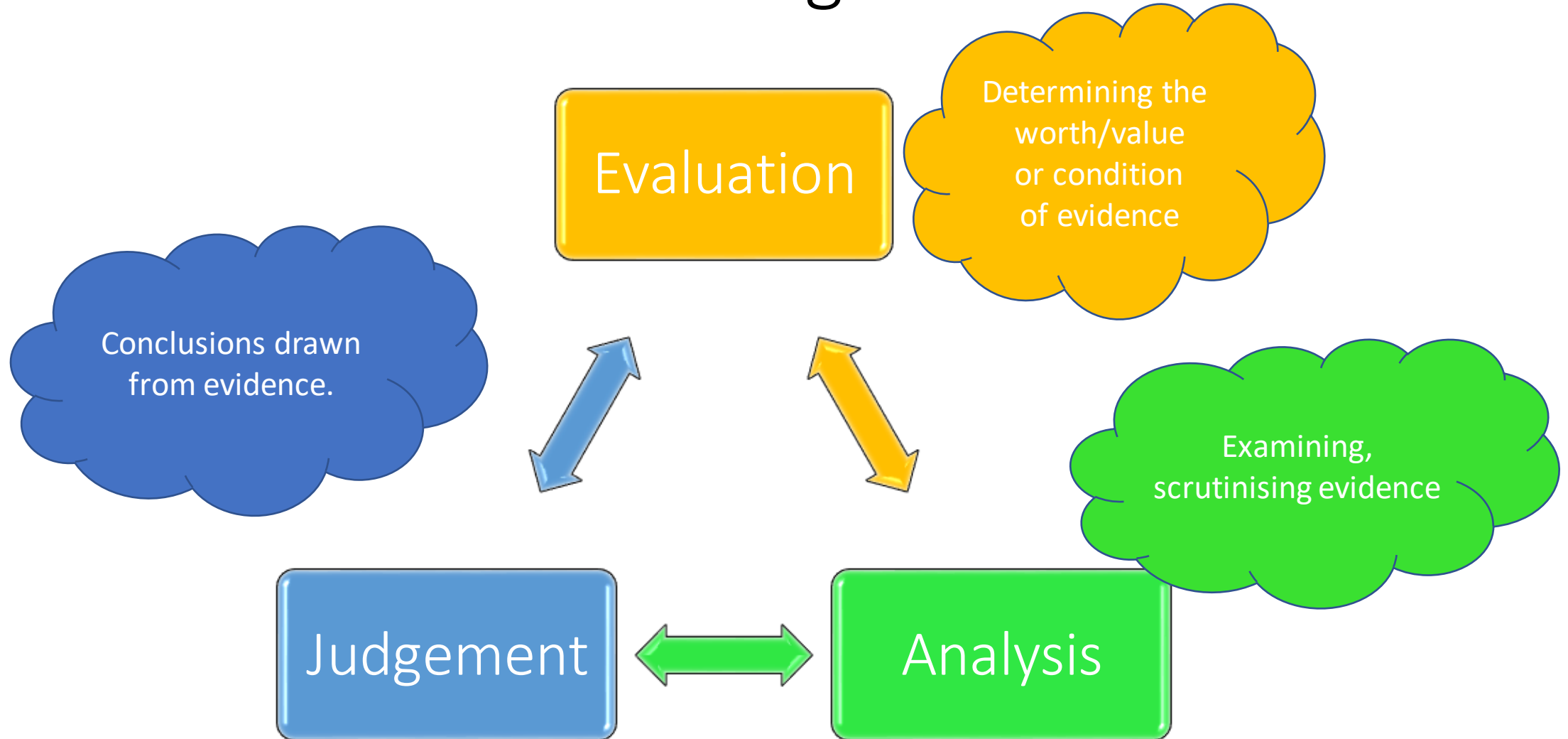
An unexamined life
is not worth living.

Socrates

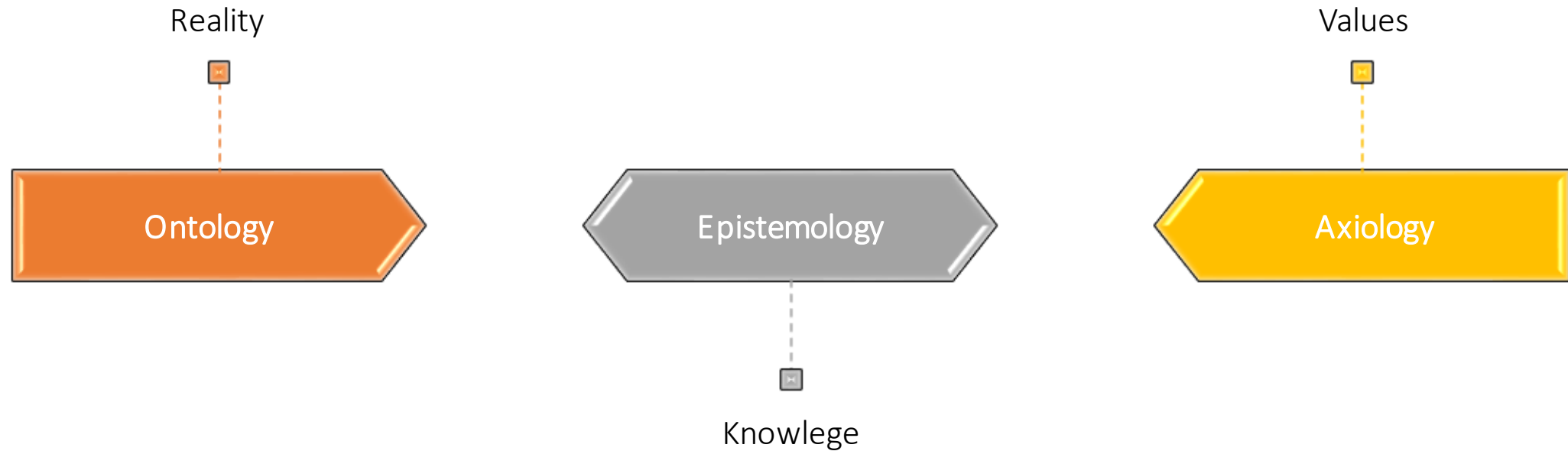
You are what
you think.

Confucius

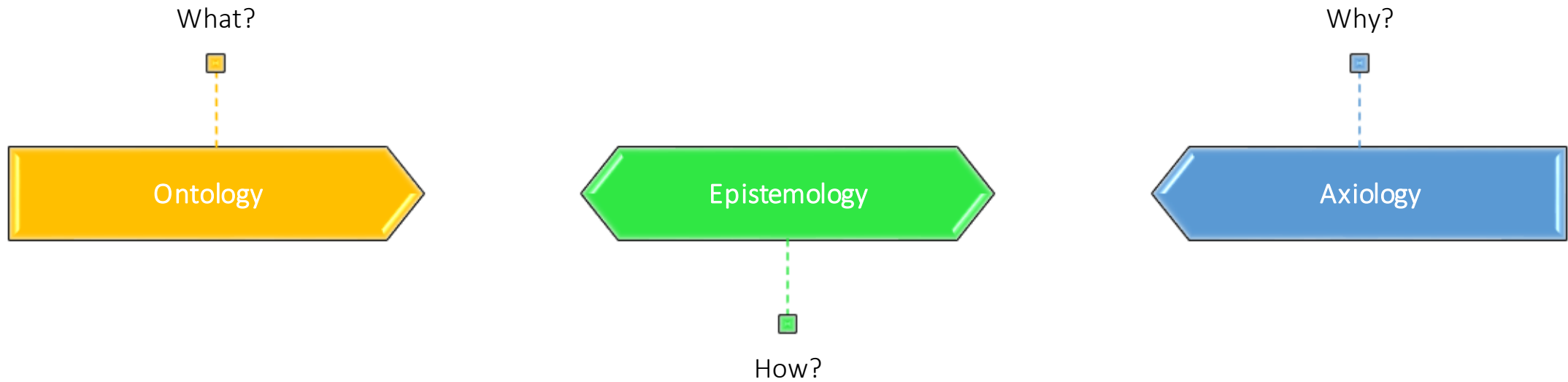
What does critical thinking involve?



Why is philosophical approaches relevant to academic study?



What's it all about?



Supposing is good,
but finding out
is better.

Mark Twain, writer

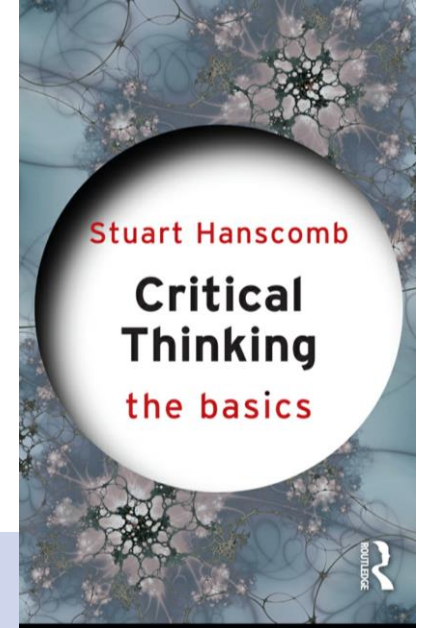
31 User Research
Quotes to Inspire You
& Your Team

USER INTERVIEWS

- Questions



The purpose of critical thinking



To Improve our ability to reason and generate strong arguments



To improve our ability to assess the strength of the arguments used by others.

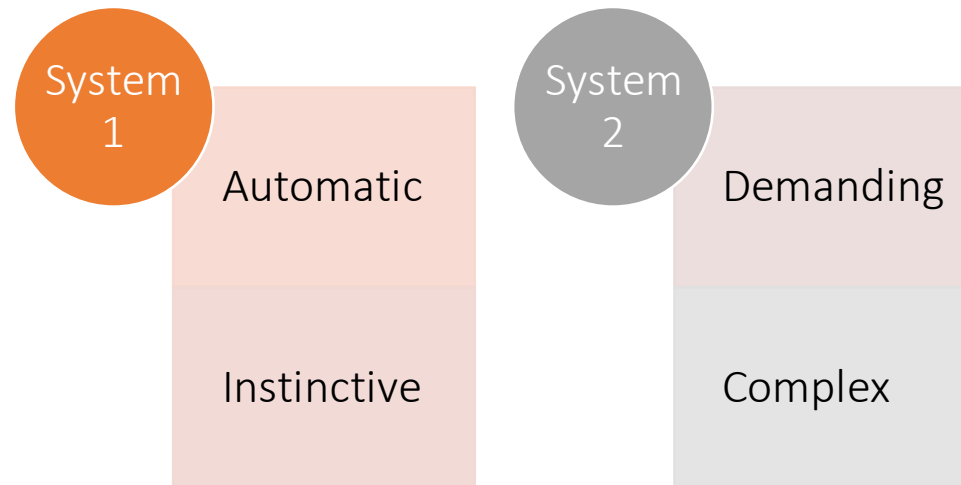
Hanscomb, S. (2017 p3) Critical thinking the basics.
Oxon: Routledge



'We do not just **do** critical thinking,
we **become** a critical thinker. '

Hanscomb, S. (2017 p58-59) Critical thinking the basics.

'Dual process' theories



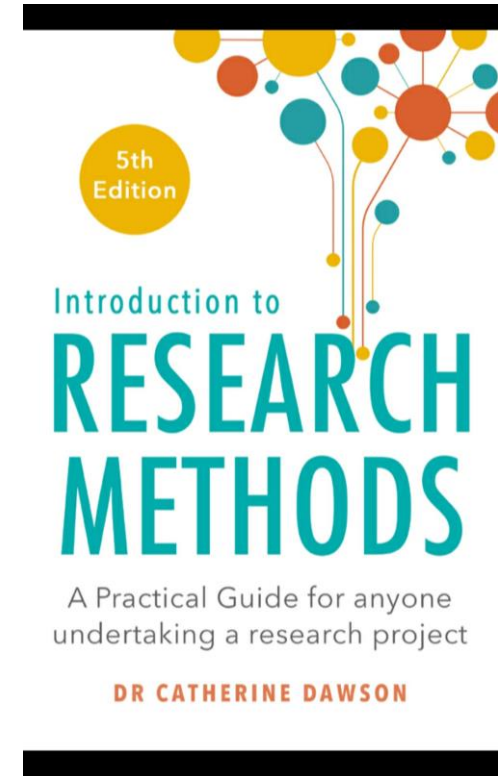
Effective questions for research.

- Focused
- Researchable
- Feasible
- Specific
- Complex
- Relevant



Ask yourself questions about the research

- Purpose – why?
- Subject – what?
- Location – where?
- Method – how?
- Contributors – who?



Dawson, C. (2019) (5th Ed) Introduction to Research Methods. London: Robinson

EXERCISE 1:

Have a look at the three projects below and see if you can spot any potential problems. What questions would you ask to make the researchers focus in on their proposed project? Do you have any suggestions for the improvement of these statements?

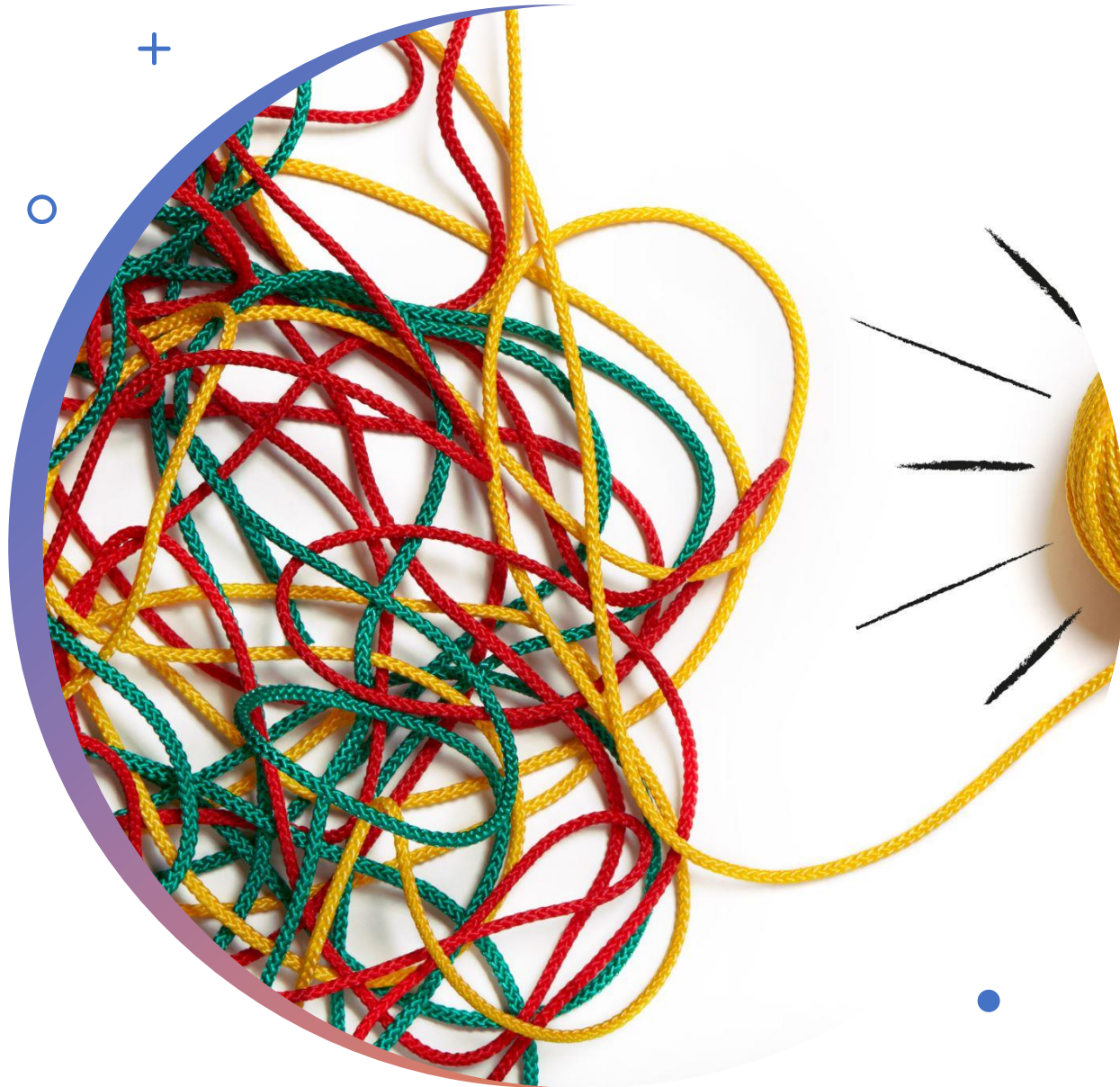
Statement 1: *This research aims to find out what people think about television.*

Statement 2: *My project is to do some research into Alzheimer's disease, to find out what people do when their relatives have it and what support they can get and how nurses deal with it.*

Statement 3: *We want to find out how many of the local residents are interested in a play scheme for children during the summer holiday.*

Critical analysis

- Working together with your group provide some advice.
- You will be given a statement to focus on and time to make your suggestions on how they could be improved. Think about:
 - Focused
 - Researchable
 - Feasible
 - Specific
 - Complex
 - Relevant



Quick Think

- <https://www.menti.com/al9wrfr34cx6>
- Code: 23 64 11





Developing a question

- Choose a theme
- Brainstorm
- Categorise the ideas
- Reflect on the categories
- What are you most interested to find out about?
- Write down the questions you don't know the answer to
- Refine your question