

After reading signs of a critical thinker I reflected on my past and recognized where I have witnessed or demonstrated characteristics of a critical thinker. The first that comes to mind is when I had to be intellectually honest with myself in a classroom while playing a math game. I knew my opponent's selected player was more familiar with the information we were being quizzed on so I allowed one of my teammates to take that turn. If I did not possess that characteristic then I would not have recognized what questions I'm limited to answer. Another example where critical thinking characteristics were displayed is when religion became the topic in the barber shop and all of the men engaged had to question if God is real or not. For most of these men they grew up in a church living with a family who is religious and practice christianity. Being presented a question that challenges your religious background and basic beliefs to fairly assess ideas that combat what they were taught showed intellectual courage. Others involved resisted that idea and never even entertained the thought that God may not be real. In fact they got angry at the individual who presented the question. More examples such as open mindedly was demonstrated during this debate, while one of the individuals who believed the bible was a way to control slaves and christianity explained his position and presented evidence the other listened and understood the argument. Although he did not agree he still listened and welcomed criticism to his beliefs and assumption of God being real. This is a great example of open mindedly because most people would have been closed minded by resisting the criticism. Lastly a characteristic that I have recognized in myself is intellectual perseverance. While conducting research searching for an article to prove there is a psychological agenda to exterminate blacks I was having trouble but being resilient I finally found what I was looking for despite difficulties. These characteristics show me what skills a critical thinker possess.