

### Chapter 4 Reflection

Chapter 4 of “The Art of Thinking” goes over how to be a critical reader, listener and viewer. Some of the concepts covered are defining critical evaluation, critical reading, listening and viewing strategies. The main purpose of the reading is to more critically evaluate and analyze the information we receive and deciding its validity. The chapter goes over basic mediums in which we take in information and how we may critically evaluate each of them. There is a lot of misinformation that is out there that we may fall victim to if we do no attempt to analyze and evaluate different forms of media. This is the basis of this chapter.

One of the key topics discussed in the chapter is critical evaluation. This is the act of thoughtful examination not passive of what we read, see and hear. One of the important things the chapter brings up is the standard of judgement in these evaluations. It is not how closely the authors’ view matches our own but whether it is reasonable and accurate. I think this is very important because I have the tendency to listen and accept views based on who said it not based on the message itself. I think that is a very unreasonable and close-minded thinking. The chapter discusses the distinction between the person and the idea that is being presented. We must set aside the author from the work because sometimes bad people may have good ideas, and just because we like someone doesn’t mean everything that they say is reasonable. The chapter says that we must make an effort to listen more carefully to people we are inclined to dislike.

Another important topic discussed is critical reading. A strategy discussed is skimming the work in order to establish the main point of a reading. This helps to save time of rereading all of the work. It also discusses the importance of reflecting on our own views and bias in order to take in work more objectively. This helps us take in information without our preconceived notions of the author. Summarizing the readings also helps to condense the main idea into a shorter, more focused and easier to analyze version. All these things help us to critically evaluate our reading. All these strategies of critical evaluation discussed in the chapter can be applied to my daily life to help me to better keep an objective open mind when taking in information.

