Introduction

The Comprehensive and Fully Integrated Framework for Critical Thinking at the USC Marshall School of Business
What is Critical Thinking?

- The intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and clearly communicating information and results as a guide to understanding and action.
Why Do We Care about Critical Thinking?

- Critical thinking is a top skill gap among job applicants across industries.*
- One of the most important things you will learn in college is how to think.
- You will need critical thinking in today’s changing world where big and small problems (both local and global) must be addressed.

The USC Marshall Critical Thinking Initiative is a school-wide effort to enhance our students’ critical thinking skills in order to make them more successful problem solvers. Why school-wide?

- Much is gained by having a common vocabulary and process.
- Flexible process which can be integrated with diverse curricula, tailored to needs of disciplines and instructors as they see fit.
- A structured process helps students gain competency and marketable skills.
The USC Marshall Critical Thinking Initiative components:

- The 5 Step USC-CT Problem Solving Process which is designed to help students tackle ambiguous, ill-defined challenges.
- The START Concept Analysis which is designed to teach fundamental concepts/formulas that are utilized within the USC-CT Process.
- Learning Modules which are designed to enhance specific skills such as how to reduce biases, how to enhance creativity, and how to evaluate claims & evidence.
The Student Program Includes…

- Student Seminars: Held early during their first year
- Online Resources: A website/database of learning modules
- Classroom Modules: Incorporated in CORE classes and appropriate electives
USC Marshall Critical Thinking Initiative

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Success through critical thinking!

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The Marshall Way!