

# How to Improve Your Thinking

GoSkills online course syllabus

**Skill level**

Beginner

**Lessons**

18

**Accredited by**

Verified by GoSkills

**Pre-requisites**

No prior experience needed

**Video duration**

53m

**Estimated study time**

53m 8s

**Instructor**

Alyssa Lowery, PhD

## Introduction

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- 1 Why does thinking matter?
- 2 Thinking with others  
We often think of thinking as an isolated, solitary activity.

## The Attitude

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- 3 Cultivating intellectual humility  
Being a great thinker starts before you ever crack open a book or enter a conversation.
- 4 Taking your time  
Our cultural emphasis on efficiency is often in tension with what makes for great thinking: patience and care.

## Things to Do

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- 5 Making distinctions  
Some of the most critical tools in your thinking toolkit are distinctions.
- 6 Making more distinctions  
A place where vagueness often slips into thinking or conversations is in confusing descriptive and normative sentences.

**7** **Only the best argument**  
When you're already inclined to think something, it's easy to be satisfied with the first argument for it that you hear.

**8** **Assessing your sources**  
You might already be skeptical of Wikipedia, but what makes for an actually trustworthy source of information?

**9** **Use generalizations carefully**  
Generalizations are both fast and useful, but sometimes they become a way to avoid thinking carefully about a topic.

**10** **Considering other worlds**  
Now what's this really about?

## Things to Avoid

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**11** **Not defining your terms**  
Perhaps the most famous philosopher of all time, Socrates, opened almost all of his conversations with one question: "What is that?" After this lesson you'll be able to avoid being stumped by this simple question and instead provide a clear account of your subject matter.

**12** **Resisting the strawman**  
When you already know you're right, it's really easy to dismiss your opponents.

**13** **Infamous ad hominem**  
One of the most familiar fallacies is the ad hominem.

**14** **On question-begging**  
A common phrase is "begging the question." But for philosophers, this phrase has a very particular meaning.

## On Context

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**15** **Two key questions**  
Answers are overrated! After this lesson you'll be able to ask two key questions to get to the heart of any issue, problem, or conversation.

**16** **What's up with truth?**  
Some of our most popular ideas rely on untenable claims about truth as a whole.

## 17 When thinking isn't the right tool

It's tempting to think that thinking alone can solve all of your problems, but sometimes you need to use a different approach.

## Conclusion

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## 18 Where to go from here

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