"ALL THE THINKS YOU'LL THINK"

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Think left and think Right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try!
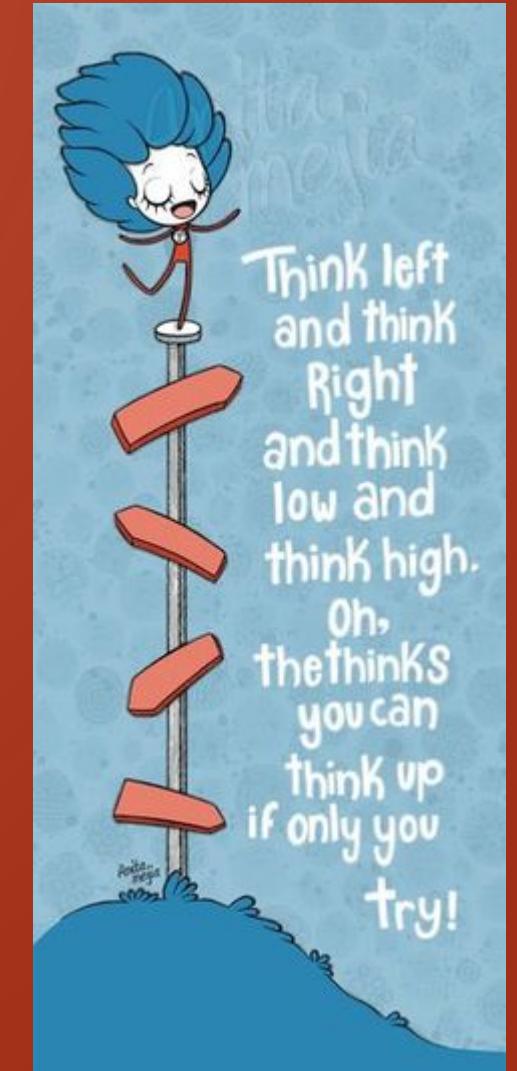
LET'S THINK!

GENERAL AGENDA:

- Definitions

- How does this map?

- Ideas & Practices

- Cautions & Caveats

- Questions & An Invitation

WHAT IS APPLIED CRITICAL THINKING?

Many Definitions Out There…. There Is No Perfect One:

1. "Critical thinking is defined as those processes required to understand and evaluate complex claims of various sorts. It involves the evaluation of information, evidence, arguments, and theories, and the contexts in which these are encountered. It entails the questioning of different and competing perspectives, and challenging the (sometimes hidden) assumptions and inferences that determine what will count as evidence or argument. **Critical thinking is learning to think in A disciplined and evaluative manner, to analyze and interpret the processes by which various claims are made and reliable conclusions are reached.**"

2. CT is: "the ability to identify, analyze, construct, and evaluate evidence and arguments in A deliberate and rigorous way."

3. **Applied:** consider an issue, address a problem? **Critical:** review data and information, investigate and address weaknesses in your approach? **Thinking:** collect & analyze or evaluate or create to arrive at a result?

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RIT ASSESSMENT MAP FOR CRITICAL THINKING

**Assessment Planning for
Applied Critical Thinking at RIT (2015)**
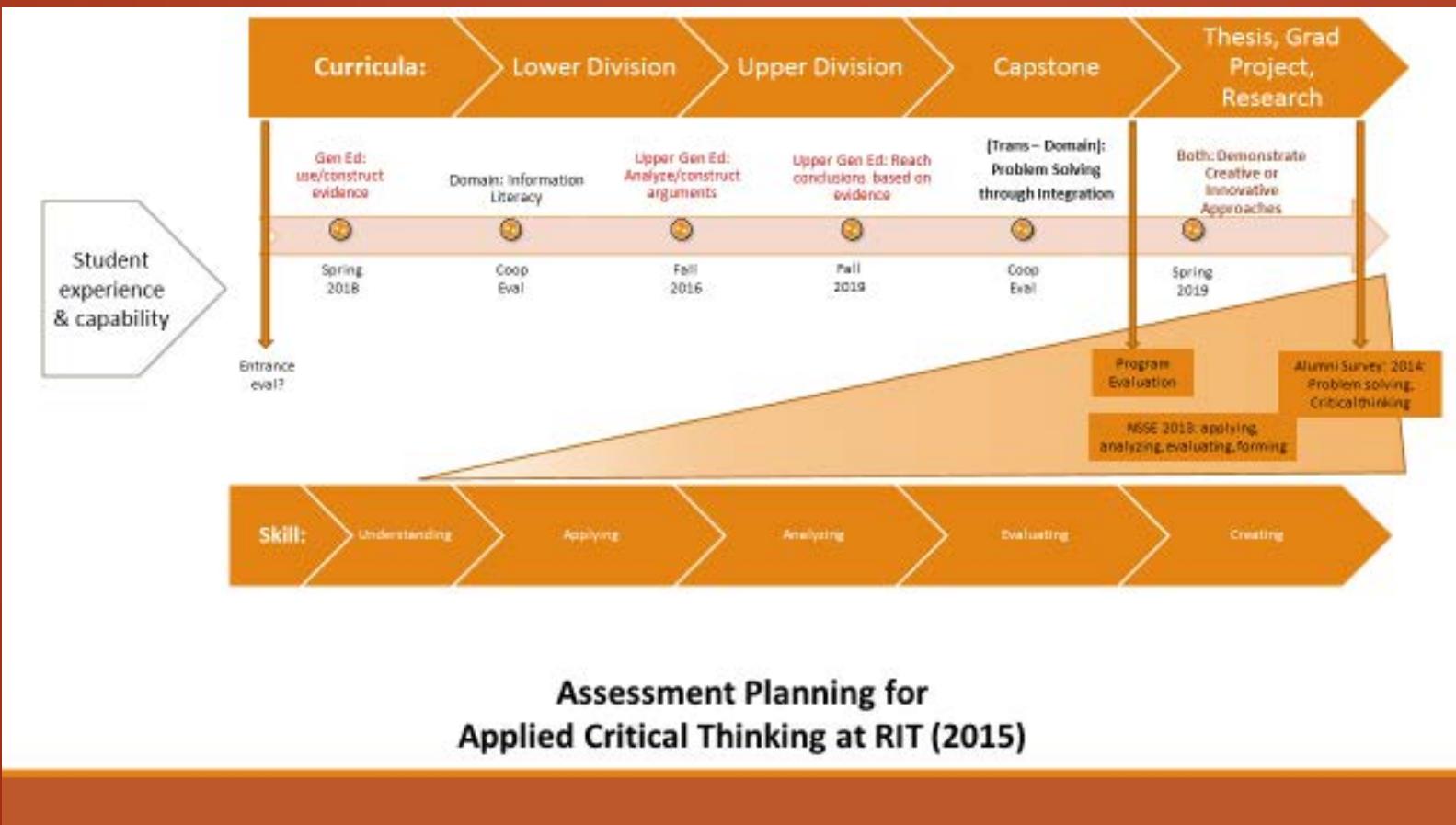
USING EVIDENCE & INFORMATION LITERACY

- Start from a point of comfort (or with a backup)!

  - APPLY our Expertise

  - Stretch thoughts from algorithms, SOPs, etc. ➡️ Change the context

  - Move across disciplines/domains

Foundational evidence & information remains the same, may add to it…..

ANALYZE & CONSTRUCT ARGUMENTS

Why did you choose?

- Tell me a story relating a big decision in your life….

- Present a discipline based case, asking students to choose/compose the end

- Use metacognition- think about your thinking….

A good way to poke at premises, bias, assumptions, etc.

ARGUMENTS & CONCLUSIONS => PROBLEM SOLVING

Increasingly more challenging cross/ trans-domain thinking driving toward analysis & resolution

WAYS TO UP THE ANTE:

- Create complexity: less available information, vague or competing needs **(what's the point?)**

- Hot seat thinking

- Time constraints

- Competitive situation

WAYS TO SOFTEN THE EXPERIENCE:

- Operate in teams (watch for barnacles!)

- Allow for preparation

- Break it up

- Comedy

Watch out for 'sage on stage' stance

PROBLEM- SOLVING THROUGH INTEGRATION

But, not all ACT is problem solving!

- What you are looking for:
  - Independent thinking with a process orientation (not just a value judgement!)
  - BUT: weave in ethics
  - Management skills (within a context)

The beginnings of professionalism!

DEMONSTRATE INNOVATIVE OR CREATIVE APPROACHES

Design & Creativity

Look for:

- Willingness to look for sources, ideas, solutions
- Continuous evaluative thinking
- Iterative (the 'pivot point')

Jazz! (when must we use the melody or baseline, and when can we move from that)?
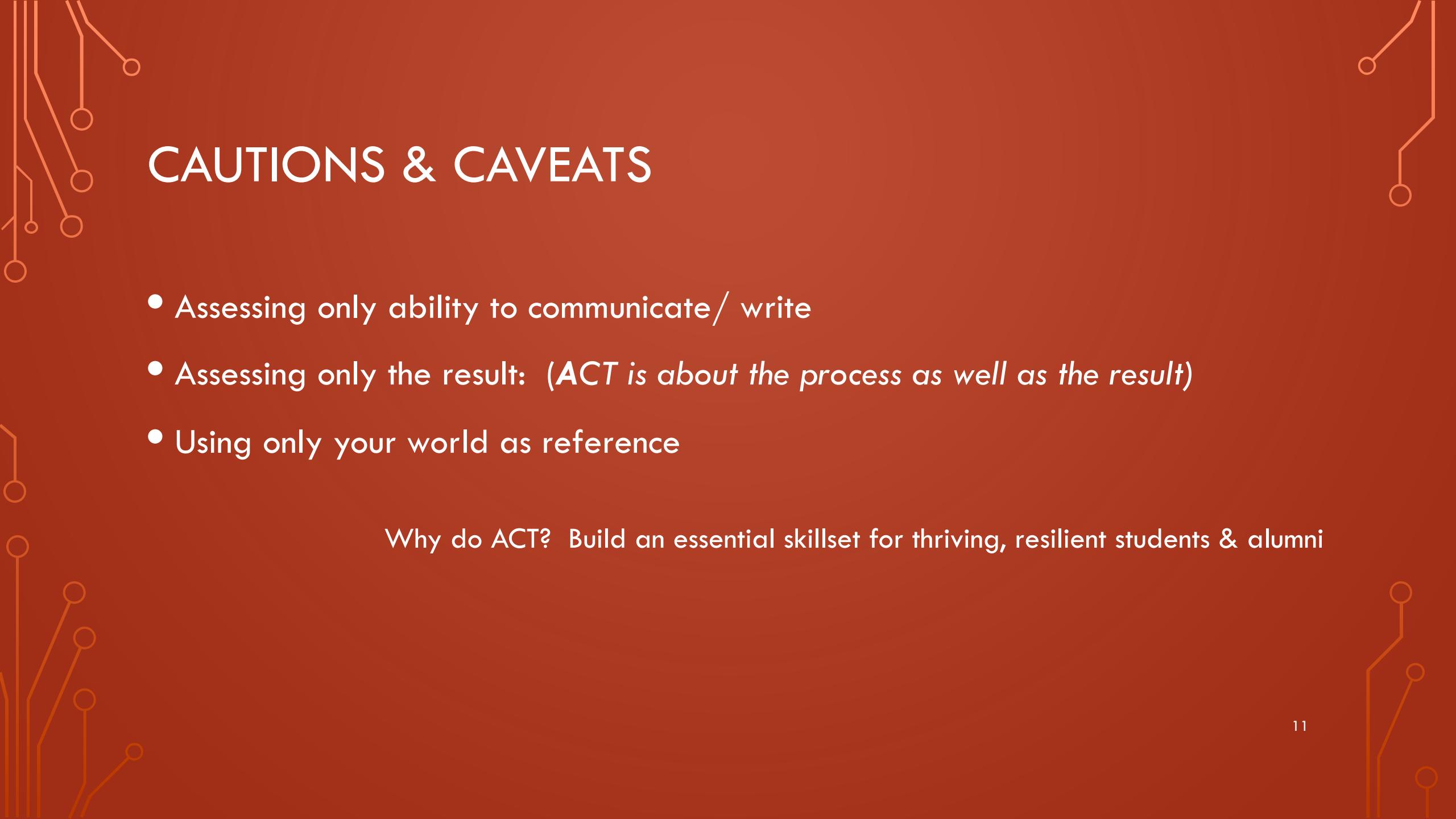
CAUTIONS & CAVEATS

- Assessing only ability to communicate/ write

- Assessing only the result: (*ACT is about the process as well as the result*)

- Using only your world as reference

Why do ACT? Build an essential skillset for thriving, resilient students & alumni

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QUESTIONS & AN INVITATION…

JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

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