Student Hub Live people

Margaret Greenhall is a study skills specialist. She has applied the same skills as you'll use in writing essays to write a book. She tutors on science level 1 and 2 courses. Her hobbies are baking, rowing and Lego.

Lucy Anderson is an OU tutor at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. She puts the critical evaluation skills she learnt as a research scientist to good use preparing module materials, exams and assignments. In her spare time, Lucy is found covered in mud either with her horse or on the allotment.

Workshop

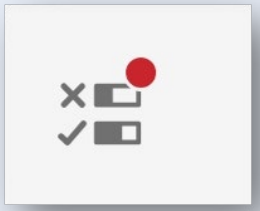
- This is going to be a structured workshop to help you think a bit more about levels of critical thinking.
- We'll get you starting to work out what's important for you to improve your critical thinking.
- There is a lot of interaction so please be ready to answer polls (questions) or add to chat pod during the session

Online workshop basics

- Polls are anonymous to other participants but the chat box will have your name this will change to user number in the recording.
- All online sessions are recorded and available to view on catch up on a public facing website.
- Slides are available to download during the session(may *not be accessible on some mobile devices*) and from http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/.
- It's a starting point for you to investigate more
- It's university wide not module specific

Mobile users

If you are on a mobile device remember you need to tap into the polling option



To come back to these slides after completing a poll click on the share pod slides icon

Chat pod icon

Please be aware

- These sessions are large scale
- They are very busy
- There is lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other tutorials
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon (this will hide the chat)

Inclusivity

- We welcome all students at our workshops. Please do be aware that they can be very busy and some students may struggle with the non scripted nature.
- Slides are available to download within the live session and from the event page on the studenthublive website 24 hours ahead of every session to follow along or prepare for what will come up.

Please

- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number
- However if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording so we would not be able to make the recording available

Initial poll

What is your main reason for coming along to thi
session? Please choose the option that fits for you
today:

- Study skills for current module(s)
- Study skills for future module (s)
- Connecting with other students
- Gain new ideas
- Responding to recommendation from tutor
- Curious about what studenthublive is

Critical thinking and writing (Intermediate)

Poll

- What does critical thinking mean to you?

Activity

- Imagine you are being asked to compare two theories that have been researched using different methods
  - One presents facts and commentary to say that students receive the highest grades if they go to live events (tutorials or similar)
  - The other similarly present facts and commentary to say that students receive the highest grades if the work by themselves and read the module content
- **What is important to consider in your comparison?**
  Give some suggestions in the poll pod available

Our Ideas

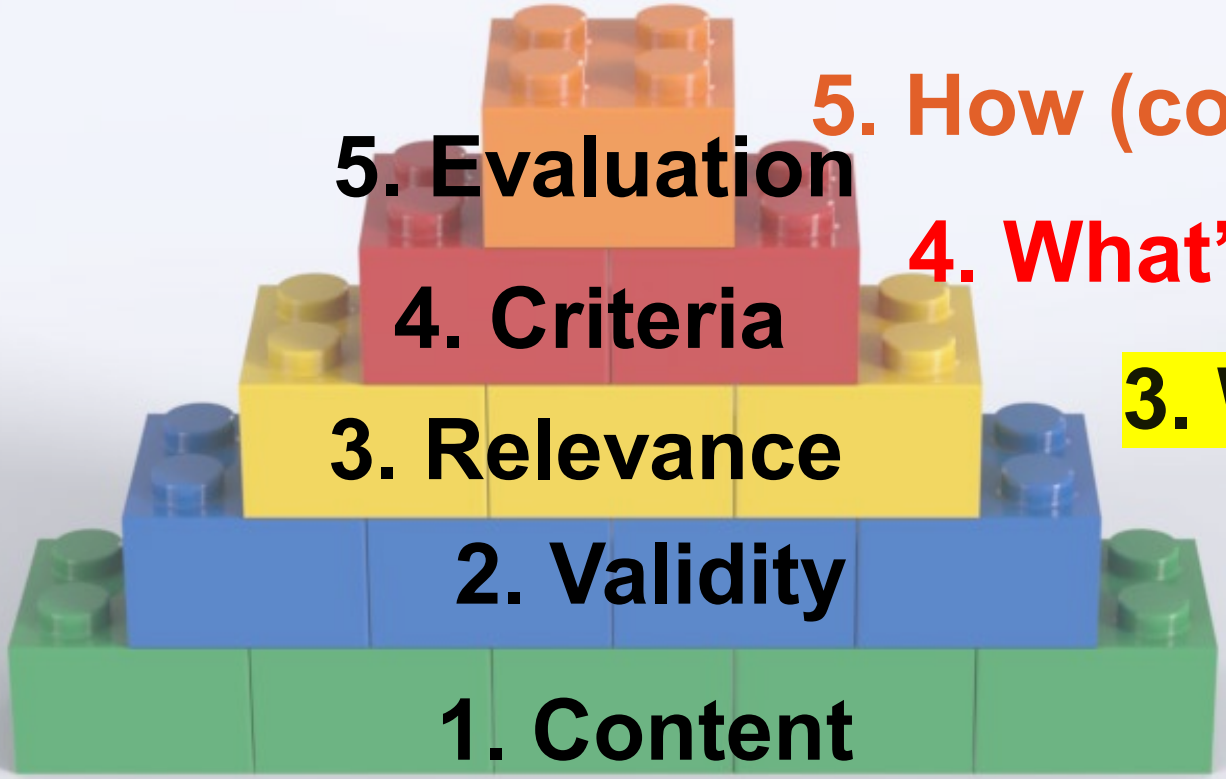
To think about this argument critically, you could ask the following questions;

- What else contributes to success?
- What are the characteristics of students who attend tutorials? For example, do they have more time to study and is this the factor that gives them the edge?
- What is it about tutorials that may make a difference? Could this be achieved another way?

Evaluation

- The task of evaluation is to consider the relative importance of different elements – some may have particular resonance depending on the context – critical evaluation will consider the context
- What are you being asked to be critical about?
- What are your criteria?

Critical thinking process



5. How (connect/use)?

4. What's important?

3. Why?

2. Who?

1. What?

Getting ready poll time

- What do you do before you start to read your course materials?
- Please use the poll provided to give your ideas

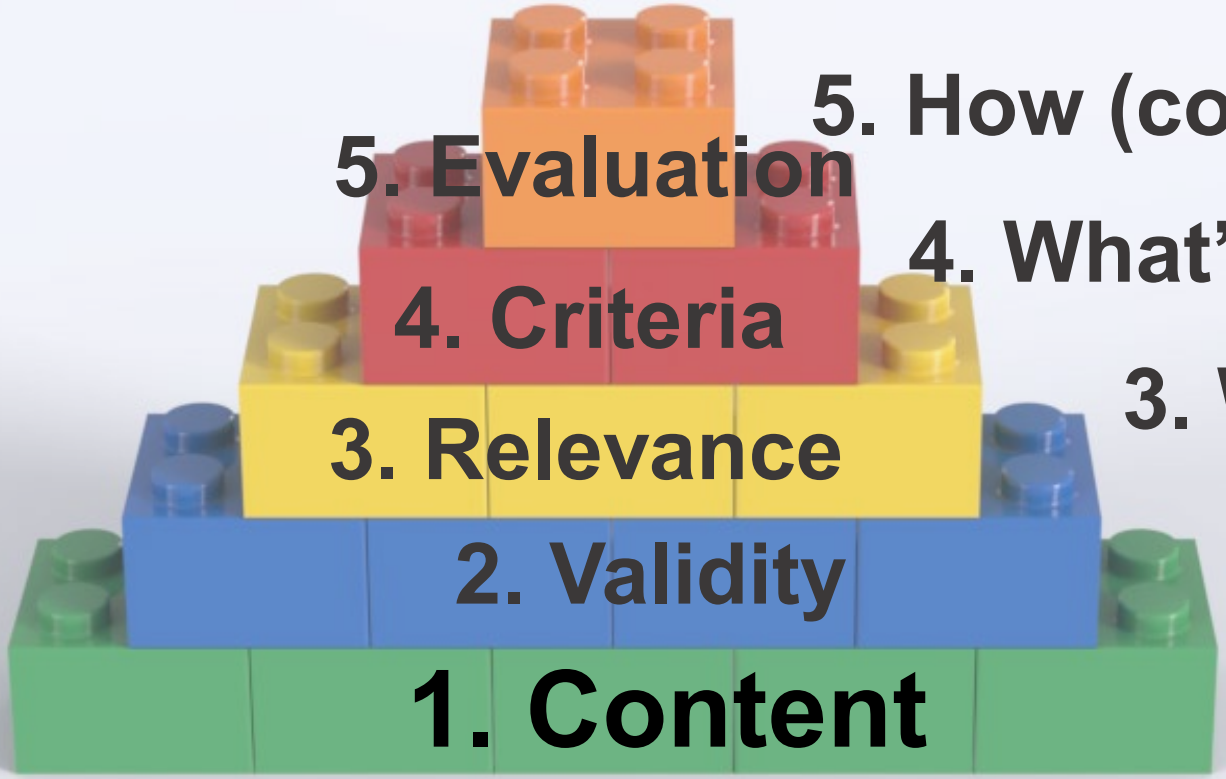
Our ideas

- Make a cup of coffee
- Turn off phone
- Read TMA
- Turn on music
- Look at last time’s material

Note taking

- There is creative note taking session on Wednesday 29th May July at 7 pm sign up at http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/
- We have a recorded version from the 30th May 2023.
- Access through this room then view past recordings and look for the name
- There was also a studio broadcast;
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nfjFAz2ZQOU&t=337s

Critical thinking process



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Critical thinking begins before you start to read

- Read your TMA first
- Write down your own questions about the material
- Max 3 questions
- Big picture and detail
- Preview the reading, a few seconds per section
- Read it with note taking in the order you choose
- Leave overnight
- Review the material

Example

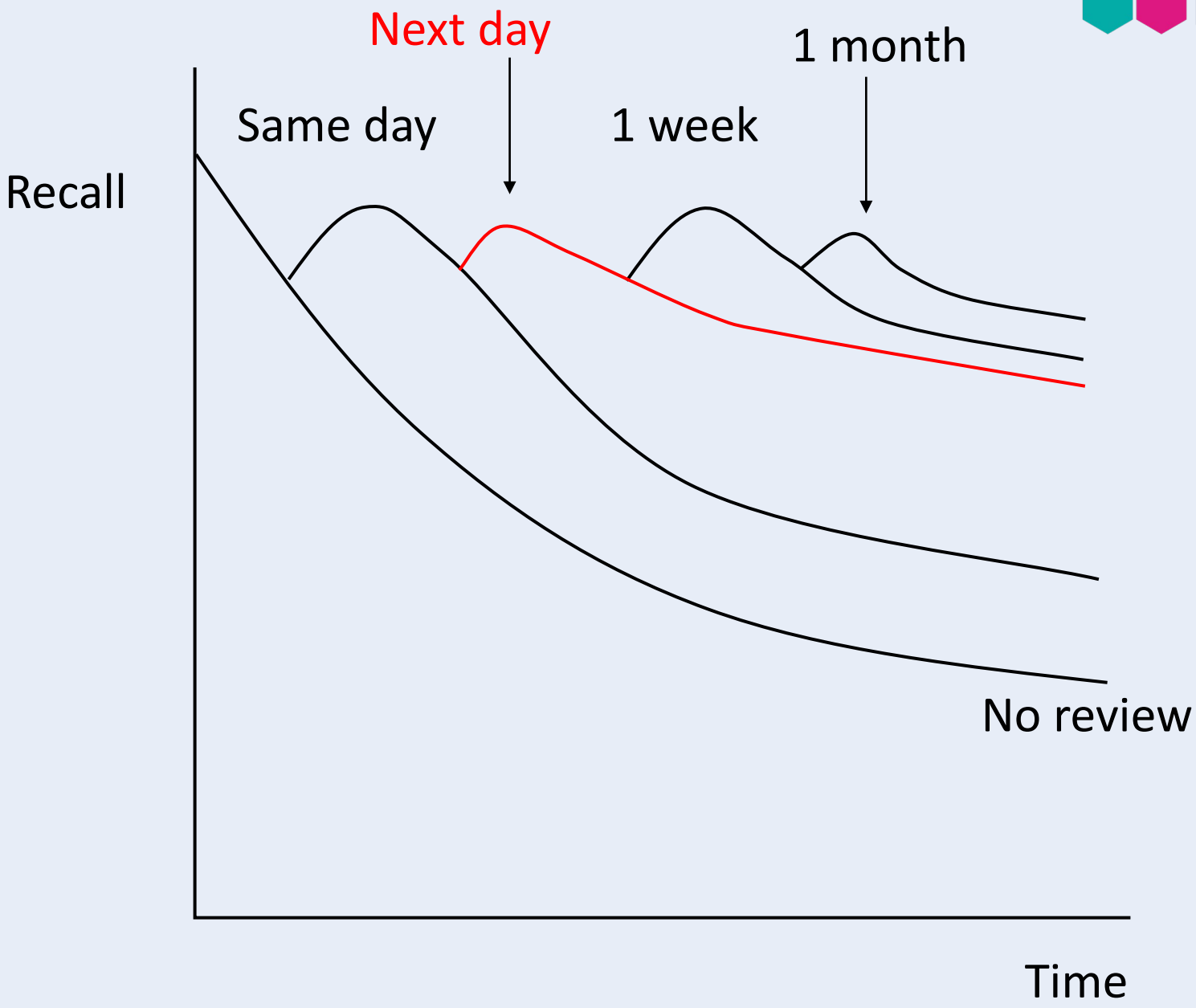
- I needed to read a government white paper on funding for universities.
- My big picture question
  - What's in it that we can use at the University of Manchester?
- My detail questions
  - How many times is the Uni of Manchester mentioned in the paper?
    - How do we apply for centers of excellence?

Example

- You’re about to read an article about time management.

- What would be a big picture question?
- What would be a detail question?

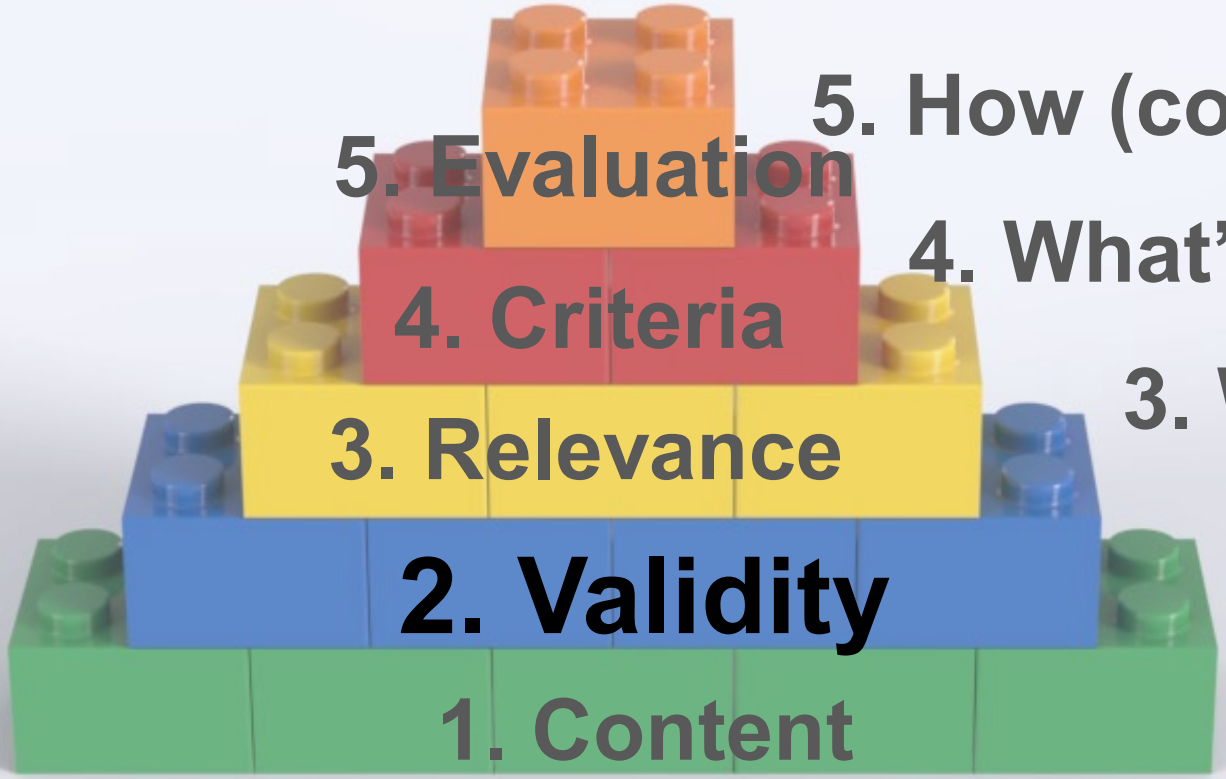
Memory



Content/description

- This is saying **what** something is
- It gives facts and details overall
- Some are **more important** within the context than others though which is where evaluation comes in
- Description is active and is about identifying what matters and having the confidence to leave out what is "peripheral"

Critical thinking process



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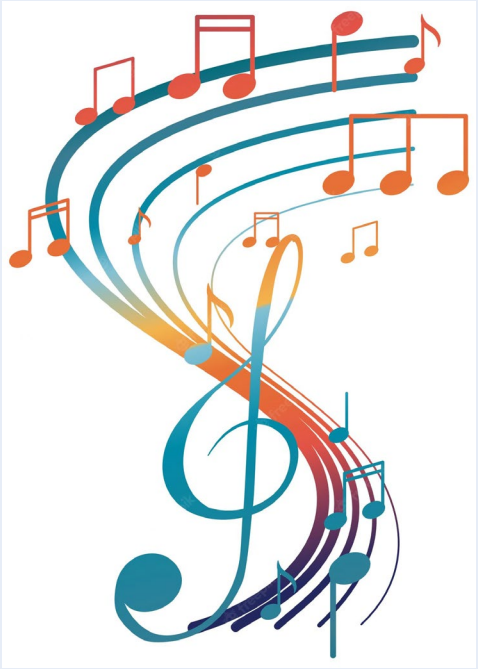
Example

- Come along to Margaret's singing workshop.
- Learn from her all the techniques she knows about how to sing.
- "I was thrown out of the choir when I was nine because my voice was so awful."
- Time has changed my voice and yours can change too.
- My favourite choral music is Alegri's miserere. I love the soaring notes and contrasting voices.



Critically analyse poll

- What information is there to help you decide what is useful if you wanted to sing better and want to know whether to register on this course to help develop your skills?
- Please use the poll pod provided

Validity

- **PROMPT**

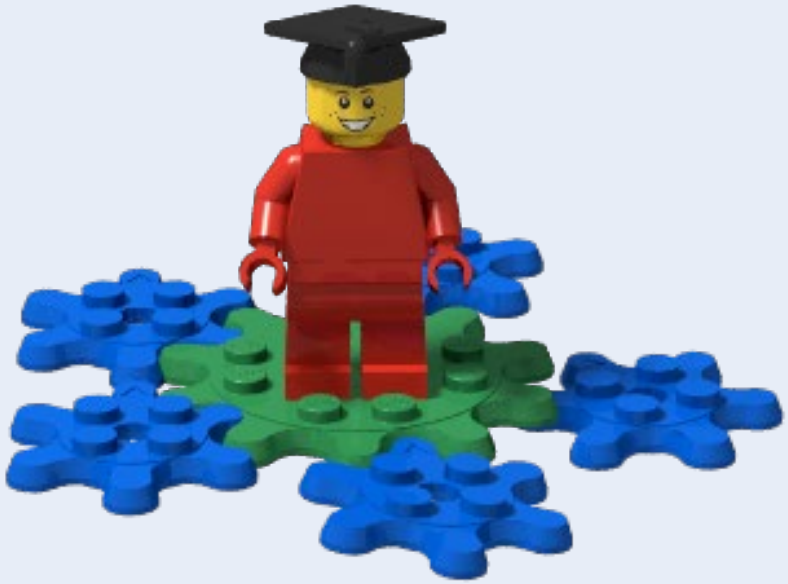
  - **Provenance**
  - **Relevance**
  - **Objectivity**
  - **Method**
  - **Presentation**
  - **Timeliness**

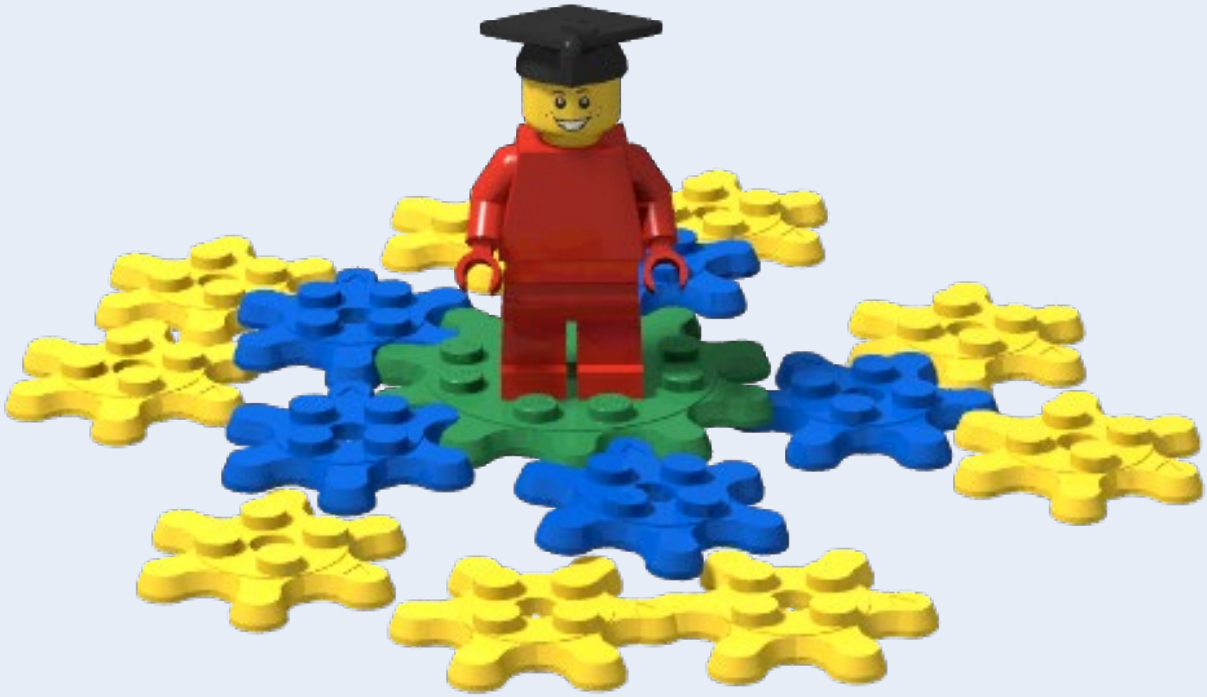
https://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/advanced-evaluation-using-prompt

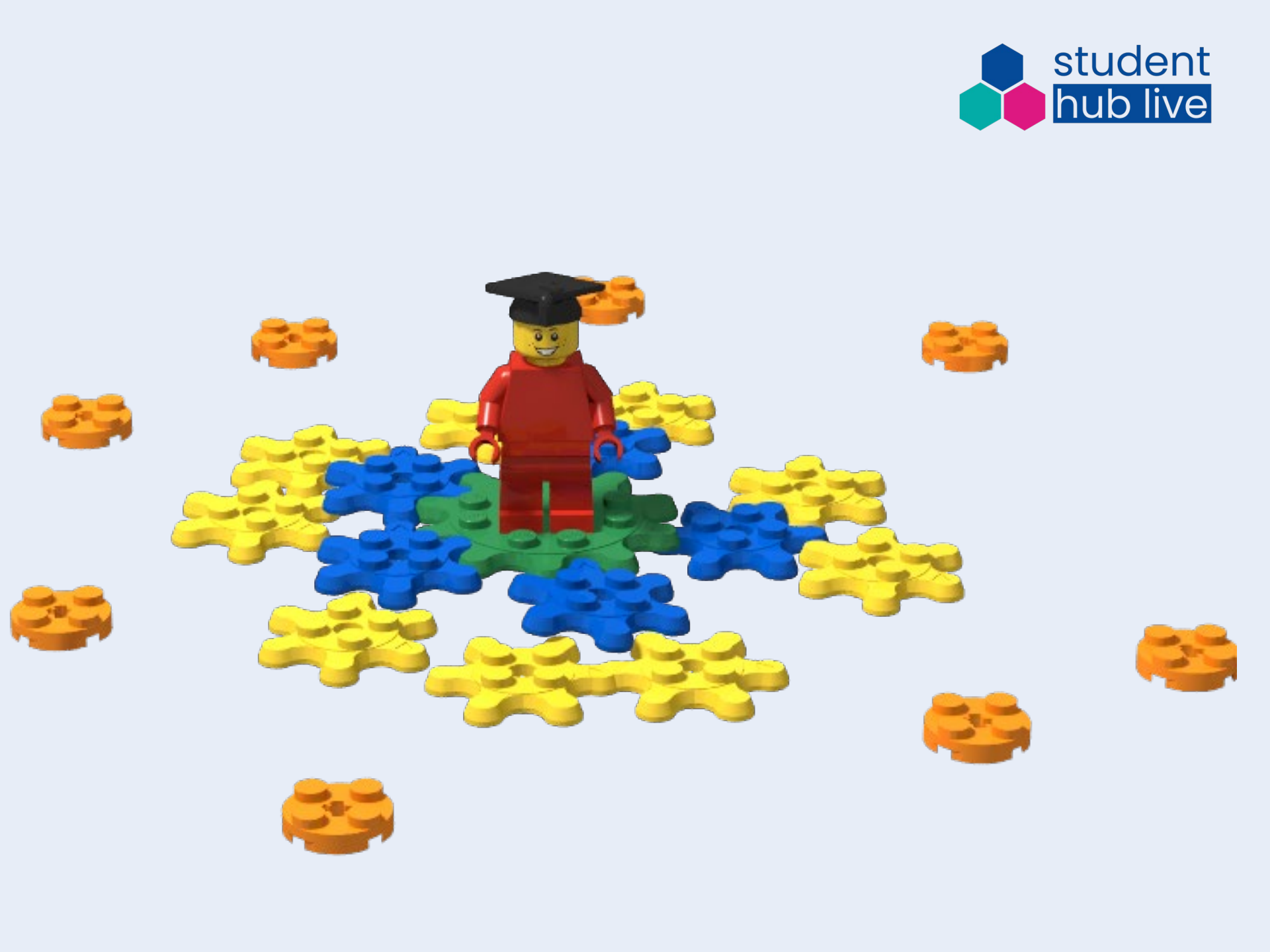
Validity

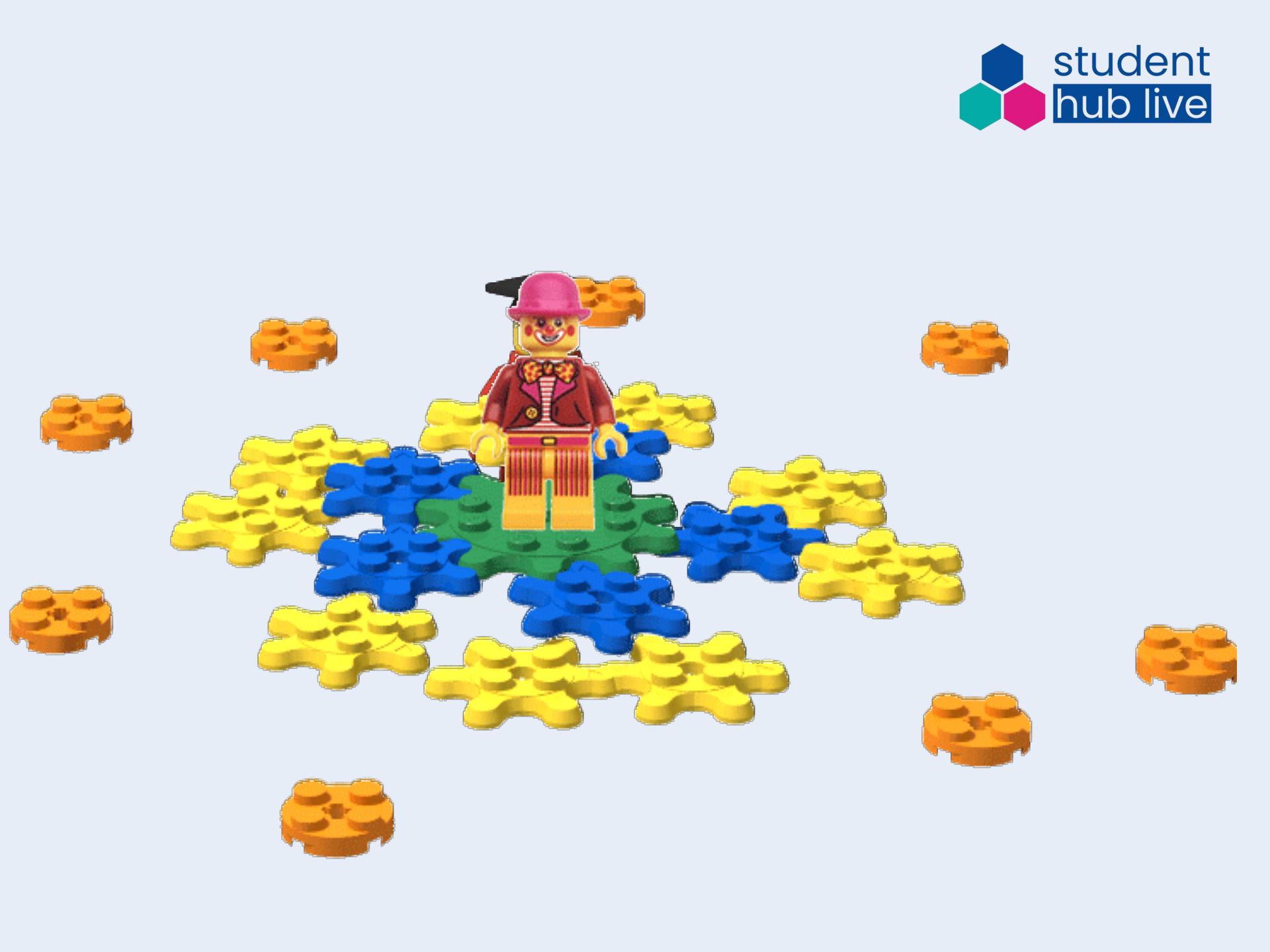
- CRAAP
    - Currency
    - Relevance
    - Authority
    - Accuracy
    - Purpose

https://uws-uk.libguides.com/evaluating_sources/craap_test









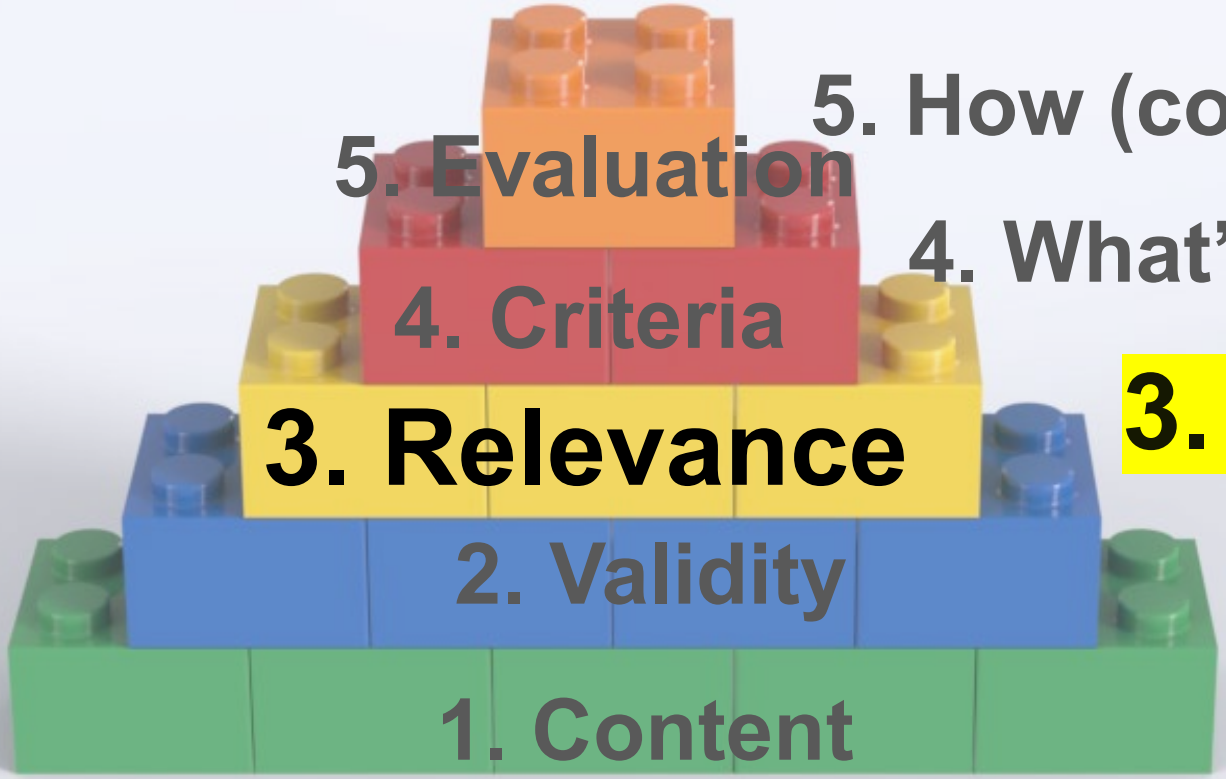
Source

- Distance from the source

- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Hearsay

- What is the source?

Critical thinking process



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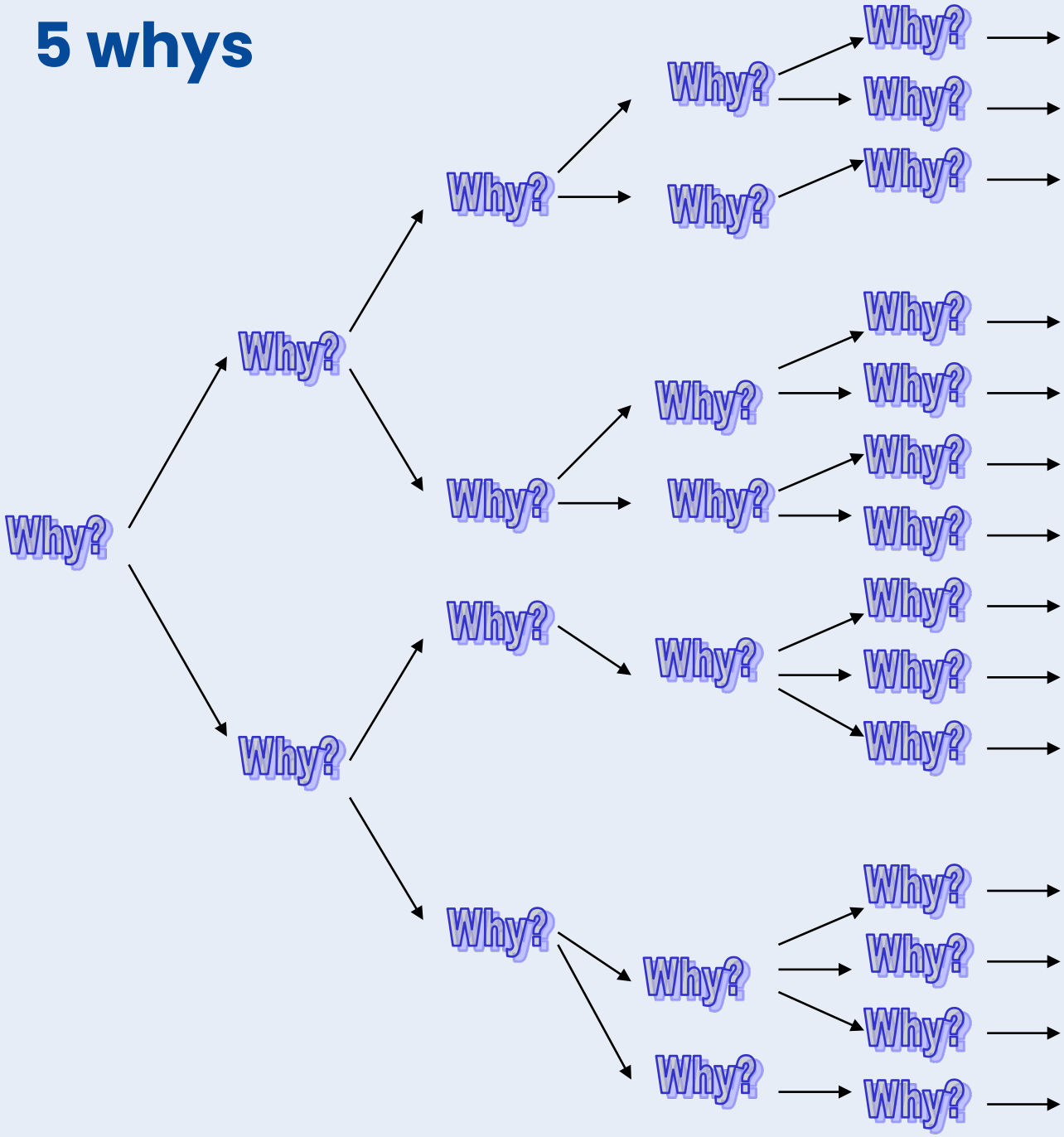
5 whys



student hub live

Real question

The frequency and intensity of heatwaves in the UK is expected to increase. Write a report for an authority of a city or town to advise them on how to reduce the impacts of heatwaves.

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Urban heat islands

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Make heat waves prolonged

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Why is a longer heatwave an issue?

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Why is a longer heatwave an issue?

More stress on ecosystems

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Why is a longer heatwave an issue?

Why does stress matter in an ecosystem?

Plants/animals can't recover

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

Why is a longer heatwave an issue?

Why does stress matter in an ecosystem?

Why does the recovery of plants/animals matter?

Why are heatwaves a problem in cities?

Why are urban heat islands an issue?

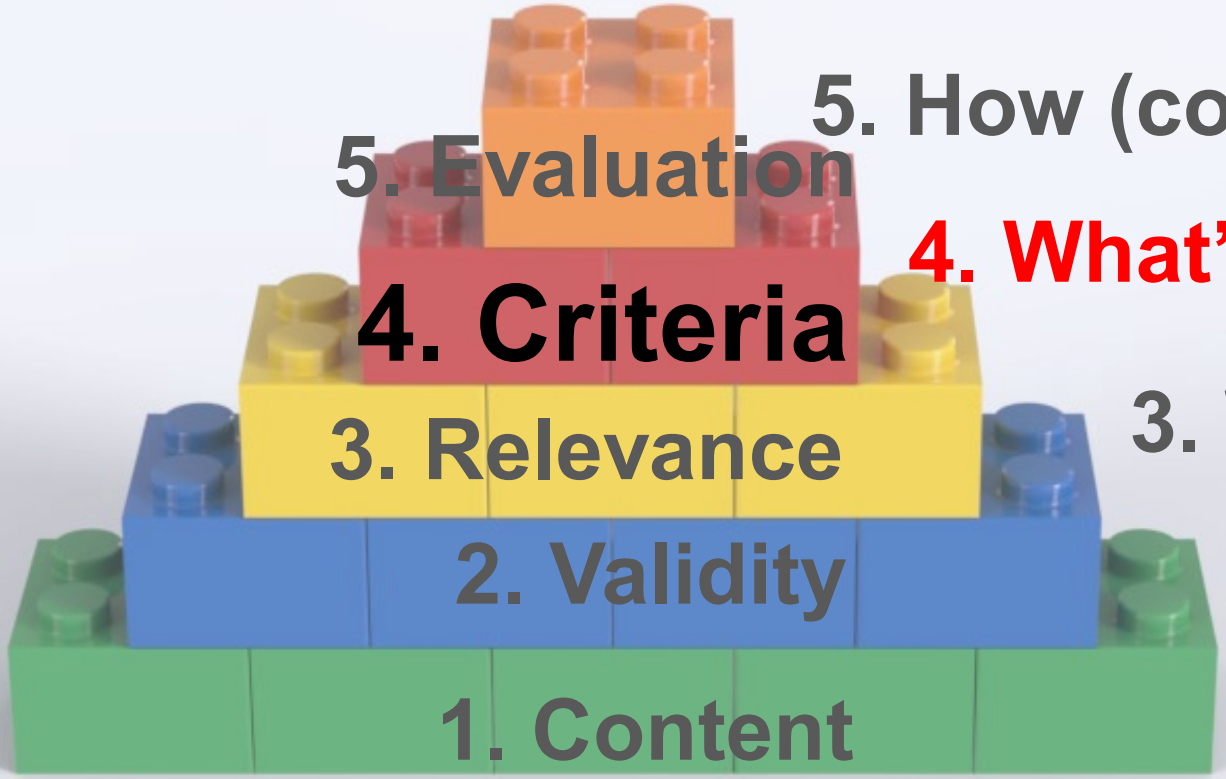
Why is a longer heatwave an issue?

Why does stress matter in an ecosystem?

Why does the recovery of plants/animals matter?

Loss of habitat and species

Critical thinking process



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What questions would you ask?

You are asked to do a presentation on which supermarket is the best.

Poll:
What questions would you ask to work out what's important?

CIA Phoenix list

What is the unknown?
What is it you don't understand yet?
What is the information you have?
Is the information sufficient? Or redundant? Or contradictory?
What isn't the problem?
Should you draw a diagram of the problem?
Where are the boundaries of the problem?
Can you separate the various parts of the problem?
Can you write them down?

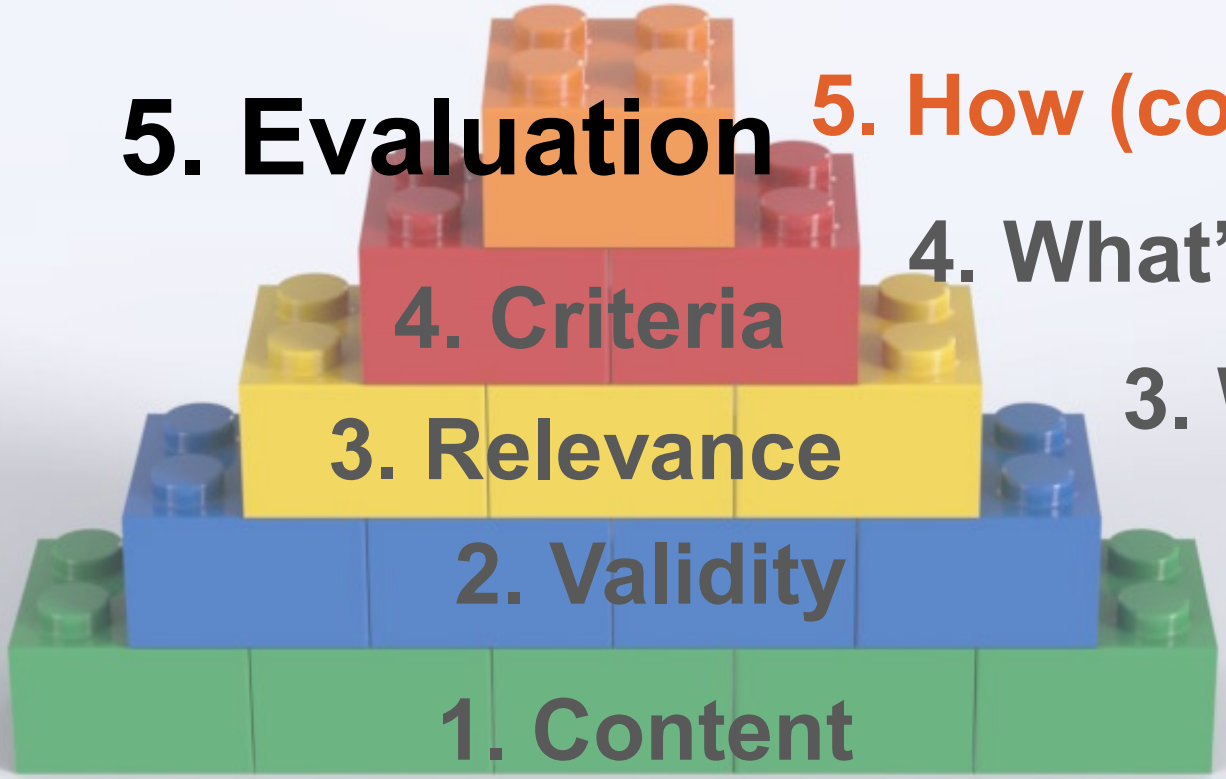
CIA Phoenix list

What are the relationships of the parts of the problem?
What can't be changed and is constant in the problem?
Have you seen this problem before?
Have you seen this problem in a different form?
Can you use someone else's solutions?
Can you restate your problem?
Can you make it more general or more specific?
What are the best, worst and most probable cases you can imagine?

Poll

Which question is most useful to you?

Critical thinking process



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Evaluation questions

What questions can you think of that show the skill of evaluation?

Evaluation questions

- How is it significant?
- What has been learned from it?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of the argument?
- What is my opinion? –
  - How is it different from the sources?
- How does it connect to other information?
- What evidence supports this argument?
- What evidence opposes this argument?
- What else needs to be added?
- What could be removed?

Structuring evaluation

- PESELS
  - Point - make the point for this paragraph
  - Explain - what do you mean by this point
  - Support - provide evidence from studies and research
  - **Evaluate –**
    What is there about this point that is for/against?
    How can you use this point to build your final conclusion?
    How does it connect?
  - Link - to the essay task
  - Signpost - to the next paragraph

Summary activity

- There will be 2 specific questions in chat pods for you to explore some of the elements we have discussed further.
- *THE CRITICAL THINKING SKILL I'M GOOD AT IS….*
- *THE CRITICAL THINKING SKILL I WOULD LIKE TO DEVELOP IS…*
- You are welcome to add your thoughts and we will then pick up some of the themes and talk through them.
- Chat does have names on but the recording will be anonymised so you will appears as 'user number'

Take home message

- Critical thinking starts before you begin to read
- It’s a questioning process
- It takes time to learn and time to do
- You need to take spread it out over several days

Feedback please

Please use the following link to provide feedback to help the studenthublive team to continue to improve what we do

https://forms.office.com/e/6eea3UCvfT

Upcoming events

student hub live

- 09-Apr 11am Critical thinking (Advanced)
- 11-Apr 7pm Memory and Learning: making the connections
- 16-Apr 11am Neurodiverse community/ neurodivergent students: planning to complete your module with success
- 18-Apr 11am Interpreting and using ideas and facts
- 23-Apr 11am Tackling procrastination successfully
- 02-May 11am Preparing for, and producing your best EMA
- 07-May 11am Support and Wellbeing for Student Carers

For more information on all past and upcoming events, go to http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/