**Empowered Educator**

**Teaching Module**

Learning Activity #1

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I teach in the first year of the Practical Nurse program at St. Lawrence College. We discuss critical thinking. Students often have an unclear idea about what critical thinking is. My first picture shows someone following a straight paved road, with no other road intersecting, boring landscape and an arrow going one way. This is the opposite of critical thinking, simply following an obvious path.



The analogy I use to discuss critical thinking is how people pick out clothes to wear each day.

I ask students to tell me how they decided what to wear today. The group comes up with various answers, for example:

* Depends on what is clean
* Weather
* Where I am going
* Season
* What’s fashionable
* If they will get dirty, etc.



Then we use an idea cloud to discuss the different options and how everyone weighs different options their own way. Then I use an example in nursing with an idea cloud to highlight the similarities.

Weather Activities of the day Culture/religion Finances

Whatever is clean Stylish