

2024 GCSS Conference Session



Critical Thinking and the Secrets to Navigating & Deciphering Information: The Recipe for Empowering Students While Building a Classroom Culture of Effective Inquiry and Productive Communication.

And, as a GCSS Conference Bonus: The answer to quite possibly the most significant “why” question ever.

The purpose and goal of this session is empower students and educators as they navigate and decipher the information onslaught we all are experiencing as well as to answer “THE” question of why every decision has ever and will ever be made. Yes, I answer the ever sought-out question of...“why”.



Something you will hear me say often, if you listen to my podcast or read any of my articles or posts is, “Critical thinking is in critical condition.” Unfortunately, its truth is all too real. However, all is not lost. Critical thinking does not happen by chance. Nor is it, at least in my experience over the past 30 years in both the public and private sectors, an inherent trait all possess. Critical thinking is a skill...a purposeful endeavor...that can be cultivated and honed, regardless of age, and one that is a “must have” for educators...especially for those who teach high school social sciences. However, it takes both intellectual courage and mental toughness...two qualities that many students, and educators for that matter, are lacking.

We live in an age of unlimited information but have generations with limited perspectives. They simply have not had enough life experience. How do we ensure students are ready to not only succeed post-secondary education, but thrive? And, more importantly, how do we effectively promote thinking for themselves and owning, as well as defending, their perspectives? We must ensure they understand the “why” of information.

In this session, we dive into my **3P's of information - Position, Purpose, and Perspective** and that **ALL 3 MUST** be considered collectively when taking in information...and, why. I also give the answer to why every decision has ever and will ever be made. These provide not only the set of lenses my students and I use as a class as we dive into social, political, economic, and cultural issues, reports, and analysis, it also provides the foundational tool that establishes the classroom culture, expectations, and norms. And, if that was not enough, this set of lenses gives students life tools that foster insight and critical thinking...skills that will be essential for them in the future.

Bottom Line: If we are looking to current and future generations to address the political, cultural, societal, and economic issues our country and our world face, we have to give them the tools to effectively do so.

This interactive session is for any educator looking for tools to build a classroom culture of inquiry and productive communication. Every teacher has their own style and personality...just like their students. The tools acquired in this session are intended to be used to develop the classroom culture that works best for that teacher, their classes, and courses. The 3 P's of Information are applicable to ANY social studies or social science course. I will share strategies and examples of incorporating real world issues that I use in my Government, Economics, and US History classes to not only help develop critical thinking skills but connect to course concepts and standards.

For more information on the session and the overall workshop and professional development opportunity, contact me at jeff@jeffsearcy.net or call me at 904.814.9200. For more information about me, visit www.jeffsearcy.net/speaking.