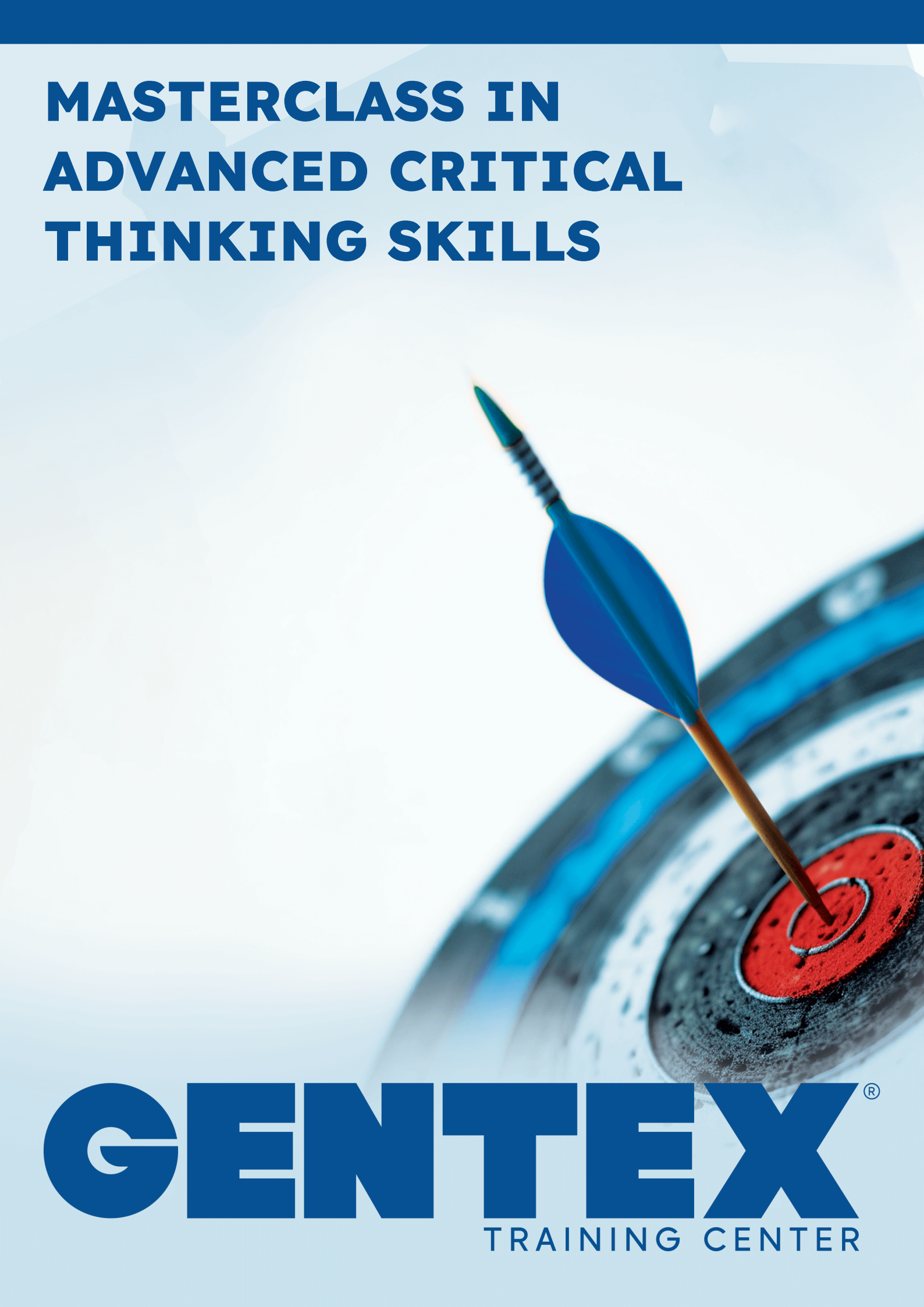
MASTERCLASS IN ADVANCED CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS



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TRAINING CENTER

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Introduction

Good decisions rest on good reasoning. Yet meetings often reward the loudest voice, reports repeat assumptions nobody tested, and teams accept weak evidence because it arrives with confidence. This Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills Training Course develops the discipline to examine claims, weigh evidence, and reach sound conclusions under time pressure. Participants study argument structure, logical fallacies, bias, and decision analysis using recognized frameworks. Furthermore, the course covers problem definition, hypothesis testing, and how to challenge your own assumptions before others do. As a result, learners think more precisely, argue more fairly, and contribute sharper analysis to every discussion.

Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills Course Objectives

- Identify the components of an argument using the Toulmin model.
- Detect and name logical fallacies in everyday business reasoning.
- Distinguish correlation from causation when interpreting data.
- Apply the RED model of critical thinking: recognize, evaluate, draw conclusions.
- Use root cause analysis tools such as the 5 Whys and fishbone diagrams.
- Frame problems precisely with the MECE principle and issue trees.
- Test assumptions through hypothesis-driven thinking and falsification.
- Recognize cognitive biases including confirmation bias and anchoring.
- Evaluate sources, evidence quality, and expert claims with clear criteria.
- Present reasoned conclusions and handle counterarguments persuasively.

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Course Methodology

This course pairs short lectures with intensive reasoning practice. Participants analyze real arguments, debate contested claims, and run structured problem-solving clinics. Trainers use case studies from business, media, and research, plus fallacy-spotting drills and source evaluation exercises. Group critiques and written reasoning assignments build precision. In addition, participants complete a decision journal to track and review their own thinking.

Who Should Take This Course

- Managers and team leaders who make daily decisions
- Analysts, researchers, and strategy professionals
- Auditors, compliance officers, and risk specialists
- Consultants advising clients on complex problems
- Project managers resolving conflicting information
- Professionals who write reports and recommendations
- Anyone who wants to reason clearly under pressure

Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills Course Outlines

Day 1: Foundations of Reasoning

- What critical thinking is and what it is not
- Argument anatomy: premises, assumptions, and conclusions
- The Toulmin model: claim, grounds, warrant, qualifier, rebuttal
- Deductive, inductive, and abductive reasoning

- Validity versus truth in everyday arguments
- The RED model: recognize assumptions, evaluate arguments, draw conclusions
- Building a personal reasoning baseline

Day 2: Spotting Fallacies and Bias

- Formal and informal logical fallacies
- Common traps: straw man, ad hominem, false dilemma, slippery slope
- Appeal to authority and appeal to emotion
- Cognitive biases: confirmation, anchoring, availability, bandwagon
- Groupthink and social pressure in team decisions
- Debiasing strategies and premortem thinking
- Fallacy-spotting lab with real business documents

Day 3: Problem Definition and Analysis

- Framing the right question before solving
- MECE principle and issue tree construction
- The 5 Whys and fishbone diagram for root cause analysis
- Hypothesis-driven problem solving
- Distinguishing symptoms from causes
- Defining criteria before evaluating options
- Case clinic: breaking down an ambiguous problem

Day 4: Evidence, Data, and Source Evaluation

- Hierarchy of evidence and quality of proof
- Correlation, causation, and confounding variables

- Reading statistics without being misled
- Sampling, averages, and base rate errors
- Evaluating sources: authority, recency, bias, method
- Fact-checking techniques and lateral reading
- Data interpretation workshop with real metrics

Day 5: Decision Making and Persuasive Reasoning

- Decision matrices and weighted criteria
- Probability thinking and expected value basics
- Risk, uncertainty, and the limits of prediction
- Constructing a clear written argument
- Anticipating and answering counterarguments
- Communicating conclusions to skeptical audiences
- 30-day reasoning improvement plan

Conclusion

By successfully completing Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills, participants will gain a practical, structured method for analyzing arguments, evaluating evidence, and reaching defensible conclusions. They will be able to expose weak reasoning, separate cause from coincidence, and frame problems precisely before proposing solutions. In addition, they will argue their case with clarity and fairness. Gentex Training Center designed this course so that learners return to work with sharper judgment and greater confidence in their own analysis.

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FAQs

Q1 What is the "Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills" course about?

It teaches a disciplined method for examining claims and reaching sound conclusions. Participants learn argument analysis, fallacy detection, bias awareness, problem framing, evidence evaluation, and decision techniques they can apply immediately to business problems.

Q2 What are the key benefits of the "Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills" course?

Participants make better decisions with less rework, spot weak arguments before committing resources, and write recommendations that withstand scrutiny. They also reduce costly errors from bias, challenge assumptions productively, and raise the analytical quality of their teams.

Q3 What skills will I gain from the "Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills" course?

You will gain argument analysis and evaluation, logical fallacy and bias detection, problem framing and root cause analysis, and evidence-based decision making. These four skills combine to sharpen every judgment you make at work.

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Q4 What tools, methods, or standards are covered in the "Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills" course?

The course covers the Toulmin model of argument, the RED critical thinking model, the MECE principle, issue trees, the 5 Whys, fishbone diagrams, decision matrices with weighted criteria, hypothesis-driven problem solving, and lateral reading for source evaluation.

Q5 How is the "Masterclass in Advanced Critical Thinking Skills" course applied in real-world practice?

Professionals apply it when reviewing proposals, investigating incidents, evaluating vendors, interpreting performance data, and preparing business cases. The methods transfer to any decision where the quality of reasoning determines the quality of the outcome.