



Dear Friends, We are entering the season that reminds us of our countless reasons for giving thanks to God for His many blessings and His grace, but most of all for giving unto us the glorious gift of His Son. With this in mind, I want to thank you for your partnership with this ministry. Your generosity and your earnest prayers have afforded us the opportunity to help shape the lives of many young adults.

This Update includes a few student testimonies that I hope will encourage you, as you have encouraged me. I have also included an abbreviated introduction of a new lesson plan I have been working on that will be integrated into my Critical Thinking Courses. This unit was born out of many honest and open class discussions that took place in an environment where students felt their ideas were welcome, safe, and valued. The reoccurring theme that surfaced through these discussions was their struggle to live a life that was consistent with their Christian beliefs and values. So, I started to work on a lesson plan designed to help students foster spiritual growth and develop godly character traits.

The Plan for this new unit is rooted in Romans 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind . . .” The phrase “conformed to this world,” means to live an unstable, transitory, and compromising life. The root meaning of “conform” is linked to behaviors that conform to socially acceptable conventions. To resist the temptation to be conformed to this world involves a transformation of the way thoughts are formulated and processed. This transformation, under the power of God, will result in a positive change (metamorphose) in character and behavior. However, the success of this plan depends entirely upon a specific procedure in order to realize a renewed mind.

The Procedure for renewing the mind is expressed as a metaphor in Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.” This metaphor depicts a procedure similar to a bone marrow biopsy used to diagnose blood disorders. The surgeon uses a surgical instrument to penetrate the bone (protective outer layer) to remove a sample of the patient’s spongy tissue (marrow). In a similar way, God is the

Surgeon and skillfully uses His surgical instrument (His Word) to penetrate the soul (joint) and collect a sample of the patient's spirit (marrow) for evaluation (judged) and consultation.

The Patient meets with the Surgeon for a consultation. He tells the patient that He has identified the source of the spiritual disease as the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (emotions, desires and intentions). Of course, that is the bad news. However, the good news is that there is hope for a full recovery if the patient is willing to commit to a program with the specific objective of having a renewed mind.

The Program to help students identify and transform harmful thought patterns and to begin the process of renewing their minds, will require them to keep a journal of their thoughts and emotions. Students will be taught how to use Scripture to evaluate their journal entries in order to transform any harmful thought patterns. There are also a number of concurrent assignments such as, how to interpret, summarize, and apply core concepts embedded in Scripture. These exercises serve as interpretive tools to stimulate godly thinking, enhance self-reflection, and comprehensive understanding. I have provided a link (below) for you to download an example of one of these assignments, if you are so inclined.

Now that I have endeavored to share the most important part of this new lesson plan, I would be remiss if I did not include a brief description of how the brain is capable of changing its structure and function (the science of neuroplasticity). This is a significant part of new unit because it is connected to the discipline of neuropsychology. Neuropsychology is the study of the relationship between the brain and behavior, focusing on how brain function affects cognitive processes and actions.

As students begin to learn how the brain functions, it will help them understand the interactions of three thought processes (cognitive, metacognitive, and supra-cognitive). For example, when I read a book, I am using my cognitive thought processes. When I ask myself if I understand what I just read, I am using my metacognitive thought processes. However, the supra-cognition thought process is beyond human reasoning. We know about the Supra-Cognitive thought processes because God has revealed to us. In the book of Isaiah we read following, "Come let us reason together . . . For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (ISA 1:18, 55:8-9). Ultimately, a renewed mind will only be realized through the interaction between our thoughts and the thoughts of our Creator.

I hope this update has encouraged you to continue to support our efforts to equip young adults to "stay the course and fight the good fight." With this in mind, please know that it is during this holy season that we receive most of our funding for the year. Honestly, we very much need your financial support, but more importantly your prayers. However, if you can make a year-end donation, I would be most grateful!

By God's Grace Alone, Pete

Donate: www.legacyoftruth.org/giving

Example Assignment: <https://www.legacyoftruth.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Renew-Your-Mind.pdf>

STUDENT NOTES

I would like to say thank you to Mr. B. for offering this Critical Thinking class. I honestly have gained more life-long practical knowledge from your class than any other high school course. Personally, I have been able to use what you have taught us to point out my own faulty reasoning. It has been a means that God is using to help me with anxiety and to stop digging myself into a pit of bad thoughts.

I took Critical Thinking because my parents wanted me to know the basics of logic. So, I was expecting to learn the names of fallacies and write their definitions on a test. However, I soon found out that I actually had to think, imagine that! This course focuses on internalizing the first principles that all worldviews are bound by and applying these principles to our class discussions of culturally relevant topics, or other philosophies.

During these discussions we discovered that many of today's widely accepted worldviews crumble and seem almost humorous at times. For example, many people believe that "all truth is personal." Yet, when you consider the words of that belief, it is easy to see that the word "all" means "every person" and the word "personal" means only "one person." The statement is asking opposite ideas to be true at the same time and in the same sense. That is impossible and contradicts the first principle of logic (the Law of Noncontradiction), which is a self-evident truth. If you told me "all truth is personal" two years ago I would have stood there and stared at you, trying to figure out how I knew that was a false statement.

I am very grateful for this ministry because I have always been a homeschooled student that was rarely challenged in my beliefs or asked to defend what I said or thought. The idea of that happening has always terrified me, but now as I head off to college and work I am equipped to build relationships with people and have meaningful conversations. I have been taught not how to "prove them wrong" but how to lead them to the truth by asking the right questions and engaging them in conversations, just like Christ.

Thank you to all who make Legacy of Truth possible, Charley

I took Critical Thinking because I wanted to be more prepared to defend and share Jesus with others. It is better than I thought since at first I thought it was about defending the evidence of Christianity like creation and the resurrection of Jesus. However, that was not the case because I learned how to ask the right questions and gently lead people to self-discovery of the truth about Christianity. This is very useful for any conversation. The reason why this course is unique

is that instead of just trying to remember information to pass the class, I am learning to think more deeply for myself and learning ways to wisely answer or question others the way Jesus did in the Bible. It has helped me to be more confident in my speaking and be prepared when asked a loaded question. It is a culturally relevant class because I recently met a person that had a worldview similar to the one we studied class.

Therefore, I had some background knowledge and newly honed skills in order to respond in a graceful manner. I have also used the fundamental principles, and some other tools taught in this class, in conversations with family and my peers at school. Moreover, I have learned how to safely maneuver a conversation to a purpose and learned that instead of trying to win the argument, I should care more about the relationship. This course has also helped me personally since I have realized more deeply the wisdom, truth, and cleverness used by Jesus when he responded to questions. This has made me see Jesus with more amazement! I have also understood and learned that the Christian faith makes sense to anyone who is willing to examine it.

Thank you so much for offering this class! Ana
