

Fact or Fiction?

The Critical Need for Critical Thinking in the Age of AI



AI: Not as intelligent as you might think.

Leading AI chatbots **spread false information 35%** of the time when asked questions about controversial news topics.¹

Generative AI Flaws



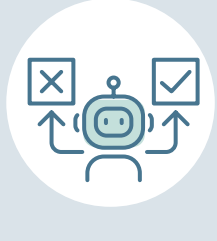
Hallucinations

AI can fabricate facts while sounding highly confident.



Bias

AI output based on human data can perpetuate bias and personal beliefs.



Nuance

Built on logic and data, AI struggles to understand meaning and process.



Empathy

AI "thinks" in black and white, while decision making often occurs in the gray area.

Hallucination rates across top AI models range from

22% to 94%.²

When scientists asked these questions, AI delivered confident, but incorrect, answers.³

Q: What's the world record for walking across the English Channel?

A: 18 hours and 33 minutes

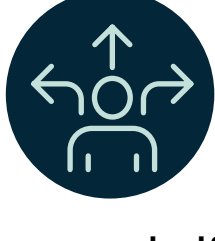
Q: How many parts will a violin break into if a jellybean is dropped on it?

A: 4

Critical thinking helps your students identify these answers as false, even though they're presented as fact. As AI becomes more prolific, **critical thinking and other human-centered skills** are more essential than ever to determine AI reliability.



By 2030, **2/3 of all jobs** will be soft-skill intensive.⁴

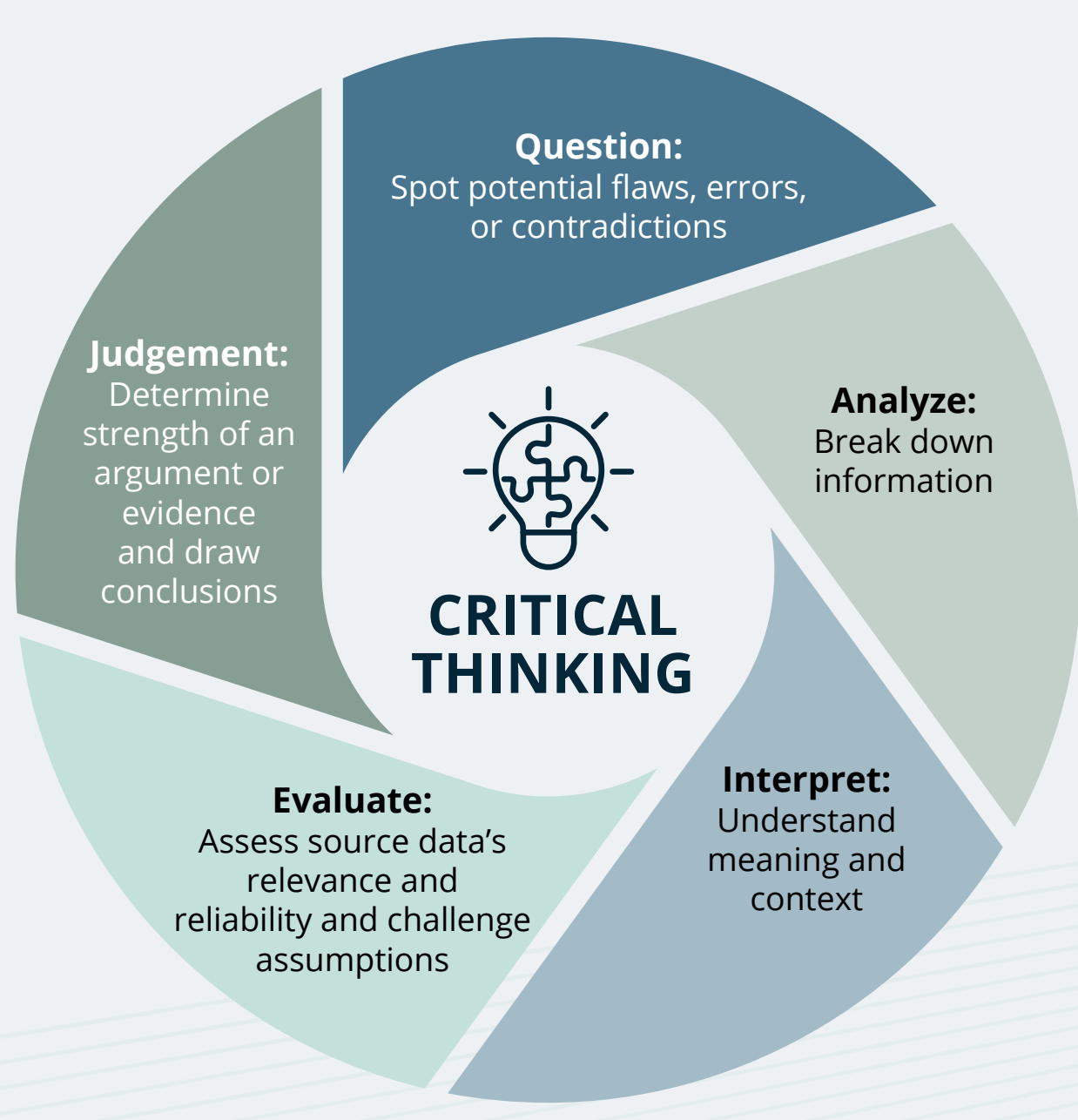


Average shelf life of technical skills is just **2.5 years.**⁵

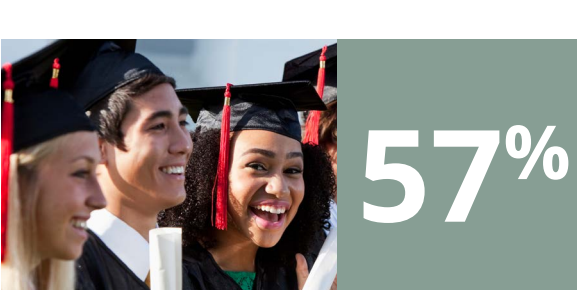


93% of leaders say human skills are more important than ever.⁶

THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT AI



Students have not developed the critical thinking skills to utilize AI responsibly and effectively.



57%

of students entering higher education are not proficient in critical thinking.



47%

of existing students are still not proficient.⁷

Colleges and universities must prepare students for a workforce that utilizes generative AI.



Teach critical thinking explicitly across courses.



Encourage application throughout coursework.



Provide structured practice during class.



Assess critical thinking skills and identify growth areas.



CAE's Critical Thinking Skills Program is designed to build human-centered skills essential to workforce readiness in the age of AI through faculty professional development, performance-based assessment, and a framework for guiding skill development across your curriculum. Performance tasks provide students with practice evaluating evidence, drawing conclusions, and defending their ideas — skills that can't be outsourced to AI.

Partner with CAE to help students develop the ability to **think deeply, act ethically, and lead in an AI-driven workforce.**

¹ AI False Information Rate Nearly Doubles in One Year.

² The 2026 AI Index Report

³ Toward a Theory of AI Errors: Making Sense of Hallucinations, Catastrophic Failures, and the Fallacy of Generative AI

⁴ Future-Proof Skills Can Help Balance Individual and Societal Progress.

⁵ Beyond hiring: How companies are reskilling to address talent gaps.

⁶ 2026 LinkedIn Talent Report

⁷ Does Higher Education Teach Students to Think Critically?