Soft skills

Reasoning Rigorously: Critical Thinking and Analysis

One day to examine an argument, a figure or a report before believing it, and to build reasoning that holds up against a challenger. Participants learn to separate facts from interpretations, judge how solid a piece of evidence is, spot frequent logical errors and read data without being misled by an average or a chart.

Duration : 1 day

Objectives

1. Separate facts, interpretations, opinions and assumptions in a document or a discussion
2. Assess the reliability of a source and the strength of evidence
3. Spot common reasoning errors: hasty generalisation, false dilemma, confusing correlation with causation
4. Read data with care: sample, average, spread, trend, chart presentation
5. Build a structured argument: conclusion, reasons, evidence, limits

Programme

Day 1 — morning

• Critical thinking: doubting with method, without contesting everything

• Facts, interpretations, opinions: exercise on meeting minutes and incident reports

• Reliability of a source and of evidence: origin, date, method, the author's interest

• Frequent logical errors in meetings and reports

Day 1 — afternoon (workshop)

• Figures and charts: sample size, average and spread, misleading scales, percentages

• Correlation and causation: why two curves rising together prove nothing

• Building an argument: from the question to the conclusion, stating its limits

• Workshop: critical analysis of a real report or proposal, then rewriting its conclusion

• Knowledge test and comparison of the rewritten conclusions

Teaching methods

• Exercises on company documents: audit reports, market studies, dashboards, supplier offers

• Adversarial debates in pairs on the same question

• Analysis of charts and figures presented in a misleading way

• Critical reading of a text produced by an artificial intelligence assistant

• Argument analysis grid handed out to participants

Assessment and documents

Knowledge test and review of the critical analysis produced in the workshop, with a follow-up evaluation at D+1. Numbered training certificate, verifiable online, for each participant; training report handed to the company.

Bilingual materials for every participant; each classroom course comes with its digital twin on OmniLearn.

Good to know

To apply this rigour to finding causes, see "Solving Complex Problems with Method". To move from analysis to choosing between options, see "Making Good Decisions: Method and Cognitive Biases".

Practical information

Duration	1 day
Audience	Managers, engineers, analysts, internal auditors, support functions
Prerequisites	No prerequisites
Group size	Groups of 6 to 12 participants, in-company
Format	In-company, face to face on your site
Language	French, Darija or English; bilingual materials
Funding	OFPPT special training contracts (TFP), GIAC, Maroc PME: we prepare the applications with you, at no extra cost.
Programme customisation	Programme adapted to your procedures, your equipment and your audience

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a scientific or statistical background?

No. The statistics used are limited to average, spread, sample and percentage, and each is explained with an example from business.

How does it differ from "Making Good Decisions: Method and Cognitive Biases"?

This day is about the quality of reasoning and evidence, before any decision: reading a report, judging an argument, interpreting data. The decision course starts from there to choose between several options.

Does the course cover content produced by artificial intelligence?

Yes. One exercise uses a text generated by an assistant: checking the sources cited, spotting unsupported claims and errors that look plausible.

Who will find it useful?

People who produce or read analyses in order to decide: engineers, management controllers, internal auditors, buyers, quality managers, managers who receive reports.