

What can eating an apple tell us about society?

James Arvanitakis
j.arvanitakis@uws.edu.au
Twitter: jarvanitakis
0438454127
September 2014



University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life



***“You are good but not
that good...”***



Let's begin...

3 things that...

- that make you laugh...

Let's begin...

3 things that...

- that make you laugh...
- that made you sad in the last week...

Let's begin...

3 things that...

- that make you laugh...
- that made you sad in the last week...
- that you have done that you are proud of...

Let's begin...

3 things that...

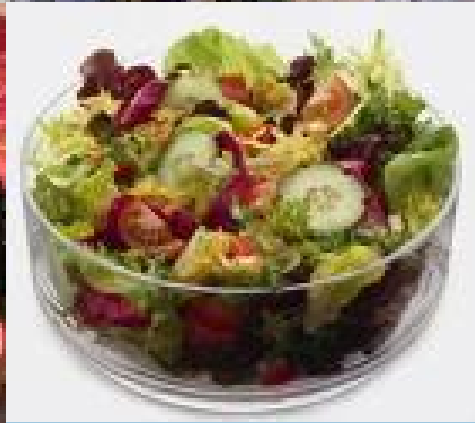
- that make you laugh...
- that made you sad in the last week...
- that you have done that you are proud of...
- that you want to change but don't know how...

Question for you...

-
- *I think I am valuable to my community when I...*

ONE: A JOURNEY THROUGH SOCIETY

Journey through everyday life



Continued...

- **What roles do men play?**
- **What roles do women play?**

- **How do we come to be assigned these roles?**

What does this tell us?

-
- **There are rules we follow even if no-one ever tells us**

What does this tell us?

- There are rules we follow even if no-one ever tells us
- There are informal rules that in a society are just as important as ‘formal’ (legal) rules

What does this tell us?

- There are rules we follow even if no-one ever tells us
- There are informal rules that in a society are just as important as ‘formal’ (legal) rules
- This is cultural: a study of our everyday behaviours

Question:

Last time you had a family BBQ -
what 'role' did you play?

Let's get thinking...

What is society?

An apple...



Many versions...



There is not just one type of society

⑩ Societies change across time and space

- That is, society is shaped differently at different times in history (time); and
- In different places across the world (space)

Continued

-
- ⑩ This means that there is nothing ‘natural’ (or innate) about the way society is organised
- Societies change and form vary depending on various factors
 - We made society – we can change it!

TWO: HOW DO WE THINK?

How we think...

I will do this because it
is the most rational



-
- Think of something you do that you put yourself first?

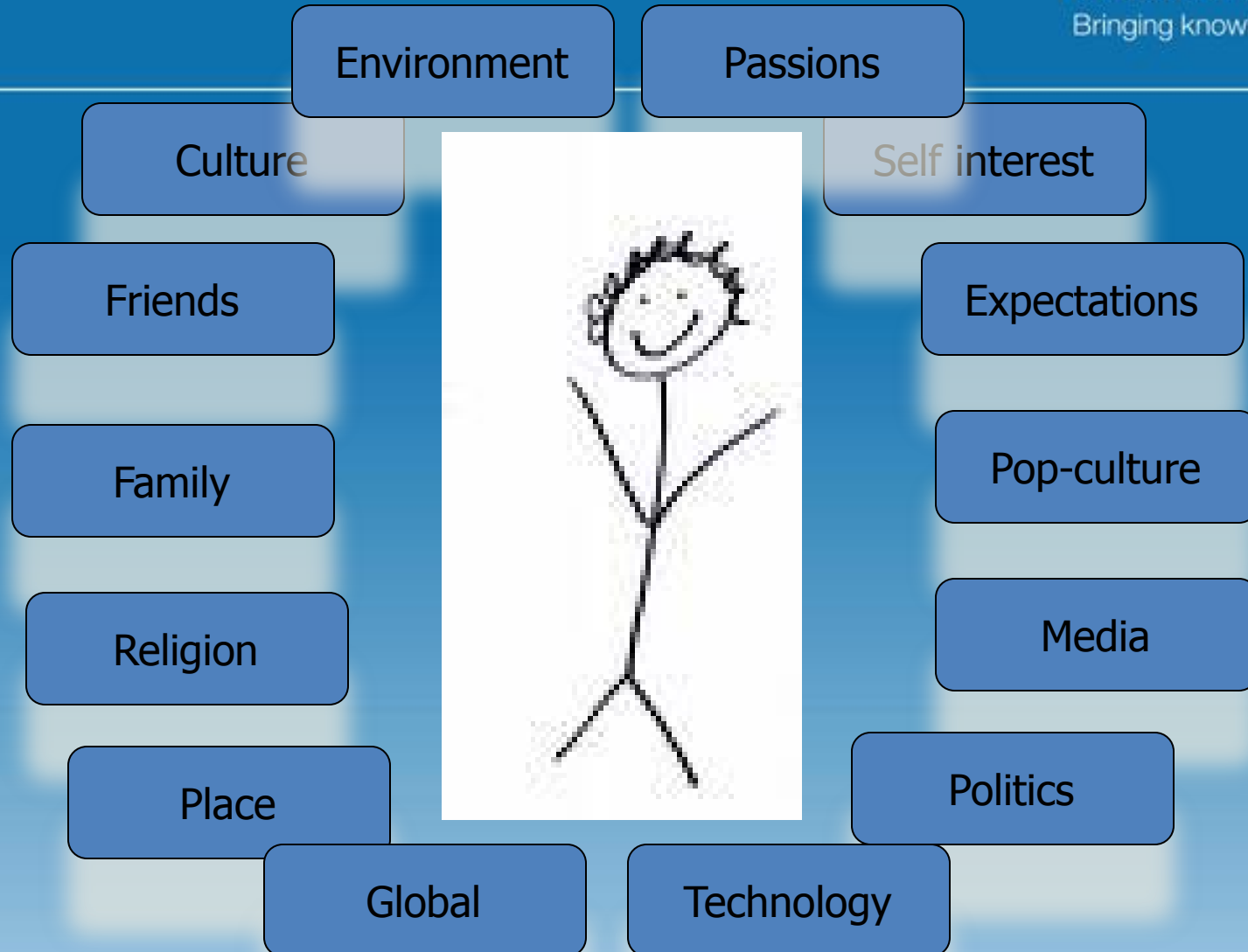
- Now... think of something you do for other people...

How we think

will do this because
the most rational



How we think...



- What influences you....

For example... Giving flowers



Think of the many symbols attached in giving flowers: who you give them to; why they are given; who you do not give them to; who does the giving; different meanings associated with different types of flowers and so on...

But what are you really giving?



THREE: HELLO ALIENS...

Critical Thinking Activity

Alien Tour Guide



- **The year is 2064.**
- **Aliens come to our planet: you are asked to be a tour guide**
- **One day, you are flying your new alien masters in a blimp over a football stadium down below.**
- **The alien becomes very confused – wants to know what is going on**
- **Your challenge is to answer the following questions that the alien has...**

- 1. What is a game? What is a team?**
- 2. Why are there no female players?**
- 3. Why do people get so passionate watching other people play games?**
- 4. Why are there so many video cameras? What are they doing?**
- 5. Why can't the people in the seats just go down on the field and join in?**

FOUR: GET READY FOR CHANGE

Challenge...

Draw me a mobile...

Draw me a mobile...





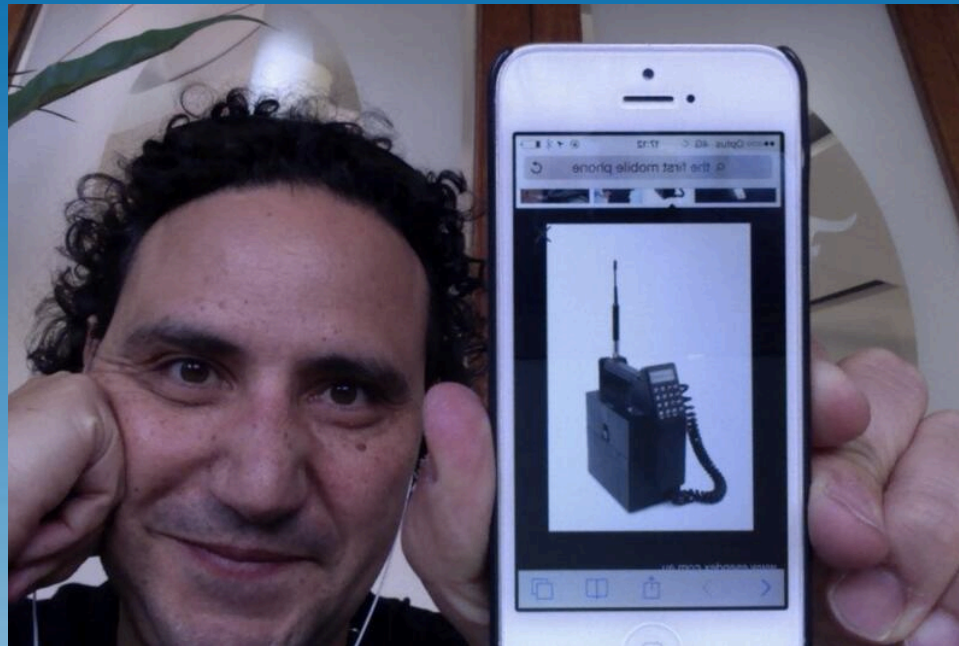
University of
Western Sydney
Bringing knowledge to life



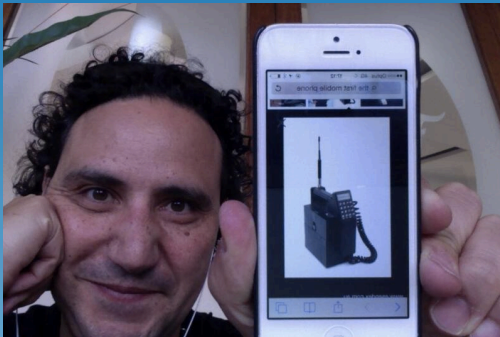
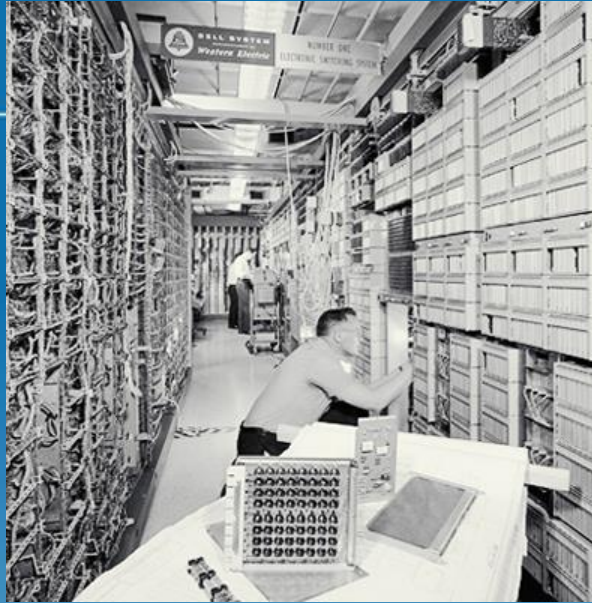
Draw me a mobile...



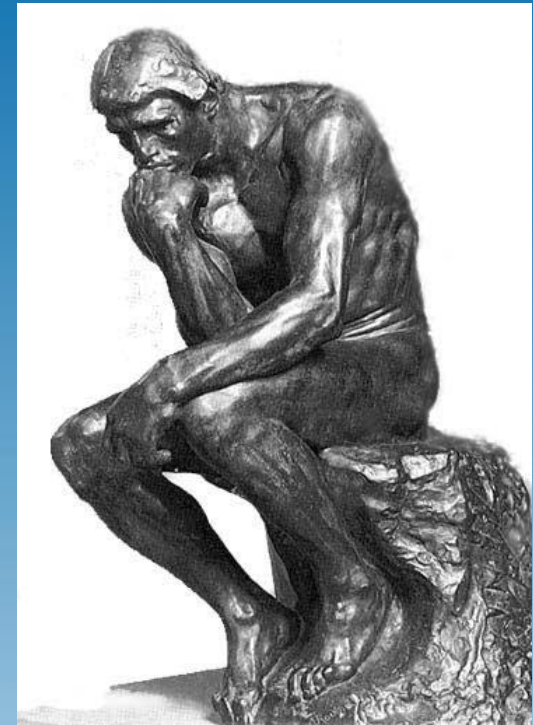
A rapidly changing world...



A rapidly changing world...



What is critical thinking?



Critical Thinking Activity

CSI Detectives!

Your task: You are a team of detectives surveying a crime scene. Recreate the crime scene; tell us what happened!

Only answers allowed are: Yes, no, doesn't matter!

Critical thinking is not just a technique used to write essays and complete maths problems; it is a skill you use all the time, without even thinking about it.



- **Problem:** A man marries twenty women in his village, but isn't charged with polygamy.

- Adults are holding children, waiting their turn. The children are handed (one at a time, usually) to a man, who holds them while a woman shoots them. If the child is crying, the man tries to stop the crying before the child is shot.

- Problem: A man walks into a café and asks for a drink. The staff member pulls out a gun and points it at him. The man says “thank you” and walks out.

Any questions!?

- Critical thinking
- University life



FIVE: MAKING CHANGE









A story of chocolate...





Thanks...