What do you mean?

How do you know?

Critical Thinking

“A skeptic is one who is willing to question any truth claim, asking for clarity in definition, consistency in logic, and adequacy of evidence.”

Philosopher Paul Kurtz
Critical Thinkers...

1. Are open-minded

2. Are able to identify biases and assumptions

3. Distinguish fact from opinion

Critical Thinkers...

4. Rely on scientific evidence rather than personal experience

5. Don’t oversimplify complex issues

6. Use logical inference

7. Review all available evidence
The Principle of Parsimony (a.k.a. Occam’s Razor)

The simplest explain is usually preferred.

Explanations should make as few assumptions as possible.

Assumptions should be simple and ordinary.

Critical Thinking Exercise

Backmasking
Real, or hoax?
http://jeffmilner.com/back
masking.htm