

## 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

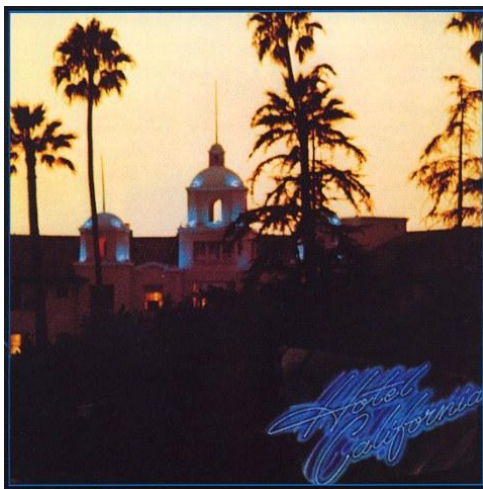
# The Principle of Parsimony (a.k.a. Occam's Razor)

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/backmasking.htm>