



Critical Thinking for Internal Auditors

Sara I. James

Course Objectives

The course helps participants appreciate the role of critical thinking in internal audit and other assurance areas. Critical thinking helps internal auditors assess evidence, question assumptions, and test theories, producing more solid, useful information as a result. This course, which is highly interactive, uses case studies and practical exercises to boost participants' knowledge and confidence in using these skills in all their work. After attending this course, participants will be able to provide better risk-based audit assurance and consulting services through:

- being able to identify, gather and assess sufficient, reliable information;
- articulating the evidence and reasoning leading to audit conclusions; and
- helping the organisation improve controls based on these conclusions.

Who should attend?

Internal auditors, risk, and compliance professionals at all levels will benefit from the practical applications shared in this course.

Course description

- 1) Critical thinking: what is it?
 - Definitions
 - Traditions
 - Types of reasoning
 - Barriers to reasoning
- 2) How can we apply critical thinking at all stages of an engagement?
 - Planning and scoping
 - Testing, including assessing quantifiable and non-quantifiable evidence
 - Gauging and communicating materiality
- 3) Critical thinking and corporate culture
 - Corporate and other cultural influences on types of reasoning
 - Identifying and overcoming culture-specific barriers
- 4) Articulating results of critical thinking
 - Understanding others' assumptions and approaches
 - Communicating rigorous analysis with empathy

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Price

€ 300
€ 200 (members
IIA Greece)



Venue

virtual seminar via
tele-conference

CPE's: 

Curriculum vitae

Sara I. James holds a PhD from the University of Virginia and has over 25 years' teaching, writing and publishing experience in the US and Europe. She has also worked in a variety of organisations and sectors, including at executive level. With ISO9001 experience and Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors (CIIA) qualifications under her belt, she spent several years in Group Internal Audit at a major financial institution, where she was in charge of training for the global function.



Since starting her own business, Getting Words to Work, Sara has provided writing skills training to numerous audit teams in the public and private sectors worldwide. She has worked closely with the CIIA (UK and Ireland) to produce its 2009 guidelines on communicating with clients, contributed to Audit & Risk magazine, and spoken at internal audit conferences internationally. Sara is also a member of the Institute's Technical Guidance Working Group.



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