CRITICAL THINKING

EVERYONE WANTS IT. BUT, WHAT IS IT?

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS ARE IN HIGH DEMAND IN THE WORKPLACE:

68% of employers say it is **VERY IMPORTANT** at their organizations

73% of students say it is **VERY IMPORTANT** when applying for jobs
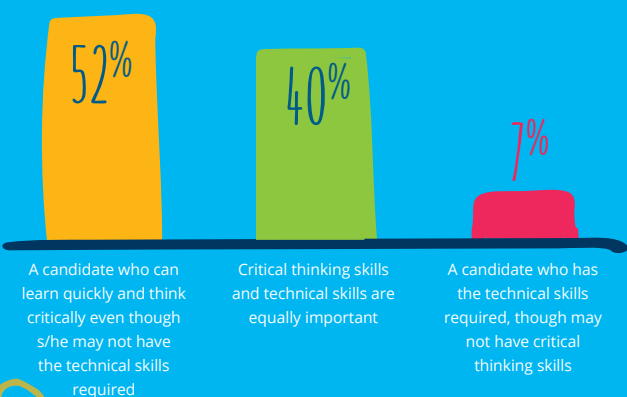
74% of employers say it is **VERY IMPORTANT** to gain leadership positions

Critical Thinking Skills are Often Considered Even More Important Than Job-Specific Technical Skills

CRITICAL THINKING VS. TECH SKILLS

We asked employers:
Which of the following is more important:
CRITICAL THINKING or **TECHNICAL SKILLS**?

52% A candidate who can learn quickly and think critically even though s/he may not have the technical skills required

40% Critical thinking skills and technical skills are equally important

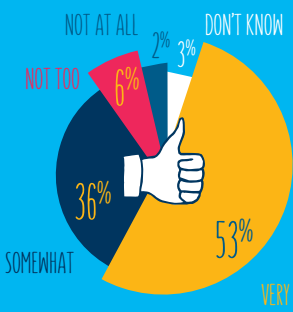**7%** A candidate who has the technical skills required, though may not have critical thinking skills

BUT, THERE IS A DISCONNECT:

While students are confident in their skills, employers are having difficulty finding qualified applicants.
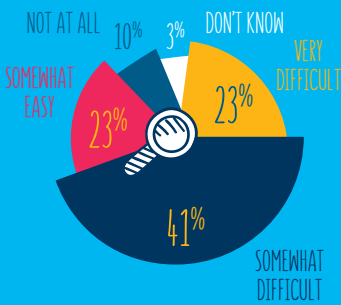
STUDENTS:
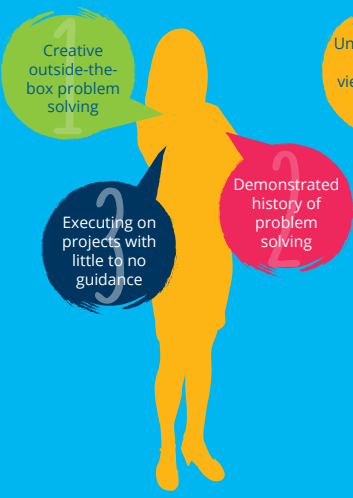How confident are you in your critical thinking skills?

- NOT AT ALL 2%
- DON'T KNOW 3%
- NOT TOO 6%
- SOMEWHAT 36%
- VERY 53%

EMPLOYERS:
How would you describe the process of finding qualified candidates with critical thinking skills?

- NOT AT ALL 10%
- DON'T KNOW 3%
- SOMEWHAT EASY 23%
- VERY DIFFICULT 23%
- SOMEWHAT DIFFICULT 41%

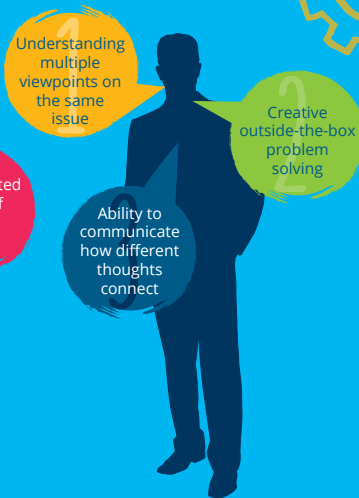## We Asked: Which Play a Role in Critical Thinking?

TOP DEFINITIONS OF CRITICAL THINKING:

ACCORDING TO EMPLOYERS:

1. Creative outside-the-box problem solving
2. Executing on projects with little to no guidance
3. Demonstrated history of problem solving

ACCORDING TO STUDENTS:

1. Understanding multiple viewpoints on the same issue
2. Creative outside-the-box problem solving
3. Ability to communicate how different thoughts connect

No Matter How it's Defined, Critical Thinking is on the Rise!

54% of employers say critical thinking will become **MORE IMPORTANT** within the next 5 years.