

Twitter Thread by Sumit Garg



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How to think critically:

(mental models and logical fallacies)

Whenever possible, confirm the "facts."

"Fact-checkers are just fake authorities anointed by the media, according to fact-checkers." — [@naval](#)

Authorities can make mistakes.

Don't fall for the "arguments from authority fallacy."

"In science there are no authorities; at most, there are experts." — Carl Sagan

Survival of the fittest argument.

Always think of multiple explanations for an argument.

Then think of tests to disprove each explanation.

Whatever remains has a better chance of being right than simply sticking with the first idea.

Two mental models that fit here:

Occam's Razor: When faced with multiple explanations pick the simpler.

Hanlon's Razor: "Never attribute to malice that which is adequately explained by stupidity." In other words, there can be honest mistakes.

Debate all points of view.

"Be skeptical of the side of a debate that is less willing to try to see the other side's point of view." — [@sama](#)

Be open to disproof.

Unfalsifiable ideas are not worth much in the grand scheme of the universe.

"It's smart to take help of a pessimist to find blind spots in an idea you feel very confident about. That's their only good use I've found so far." — [@kunalb11](#)

Choose knowledge over ego.

Just because an idea is yours doesn't make it right. Accept that others can and will find faults with it.

"The trick to viewing feedback as a gift is to be more worried about having blind spots than hearing about them." — [@JamesClear](#)