

# These Three Critical Thinking Skills are Essential for the Future of Work



How we work has changed forever. The skills needed to succeed in the future of work will be different too. The future of work depends on your ability to think - and to think critically - about ways to innovate, create, and lead through change. This is easier said than done. There are a million distractions that prohibit critical thinking - think social media, doom-scrolling, 24-hour news cycles, civil unrest, mental health issues, the list really could go on and on. So, to succeed in the future of work, it is crucial to build these three critical thinking skills.



## Eliminate Distractions

Is your team productive or just busy? There is a difference. Are they just checking task after task off a list, or are they able to do the deep work that actually moves the needle? The best way for your team to help them eliminate the distractions and stop the busyness that is taking up their days.

If your team is working remotely, there is a whole new set of distractions eating up their time. It's also important to note that people are craving distractions right now - there's a lot of unpleasantness going on right now, and people are desperate to find escapes. However, in the future of work, the ability to access undistracted attention will be crucial. The distractions will only increase, so the future belongs to those who can intentionally focus on bringing new concepts or ideas to the table.

## Find Time to Think

Shallow thinking is easy - most people are comfortable with this surface-level thinking; but to succeed in the future of work, thinking deeper will be vital. When your team spends more time intentionally thinking, you'll see a return back in the time they have to work on moving the needle since there will be less "time sucks" like meetings without a clear action plan or email threads that become a confusing web of multiple conversations eating up their day.



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## Increase Collaboration Time

“That’s the way it’s always been done” is a moniker that no longer exists in the future of work. Forward-thinking leaders understand listening is where the new ideas are. To help your team invest in deep work, it has to be okay for individuals to share budding concepts instead of making them feel like they can only contribute if they have an idea completed mapped out. Normalize bringing forward ideas without having all the answers - that is what the collaboration importance comes in!

Three crucial skills are required for the future: eliminate distractions, find time to think, and discover the value of deep work. Fostering these critical thinking skills will be key for the success of future work.

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