When looking to hire a new employee, companies are interested in the skills each candidate brings to the table. Career readiness competencies are the primary skills employers look for when hiring. This month, we are highlighting critical thinking. For this competency, we are focusing on the ability to identify and respond to needs based upon an understanding of situational context and logical analysis of relevant information. Learn more about how to improve your critical thinking [HERE](#).

Sample behaviors that apply to critical thinking include:

- Gathering and analyzing information from a diverse set of sources and individuals to better understand a problem.
- Anticipating needs and prioritizing next action steps.
- Accurately summarizing and interpreting data with an awareness of personal biases that can impact outcomes.
- Multi-tasking well in fast-paced environments.
Big Interview is a unique online tool that allows students to combine training and practice to help improve interview technique and build confidence. Big Interview will also help with resume writing, how to negotiate, and how to navigate the first 90 days of a new job!

Students can utilize the variety of interactive resources offered including virtual mock interviews, thousands of interview questions and tips on how to answer them. Be sure to check out this free resource by visiting the link below.

Congratulations to November’s Student Highlight: Lanie Ross! Lanie is a senior Psychology major who has been described as someone who works extremely hard and pushes herself in all that she does, both academically and professionally. Those that nominated Lanie say that she always willing to help others! Do you know an amazing CLASS student? Nominate someone by completing the form below.

Nominate Here!
MEET LAUREN PIEPENBURG!

Hello everyone! My name is Lauren and I am a Career Coach for psychology, anthropology, and sociology majors. I received my B.S. in Animal Science from Texas Tech University and my M.Ed. in Higher Education with a focus in Student Affairs from the University of North Texas! While at Texas Tech, I worked for a number of on-campus departments including orientation, undergraduate admissions, and recruitment for my academic college. Through these experiences, I found a true passion for working with and serving college students. During my time at UNT, I served as the Graduate Assistant for Orientation and New Student Programs my first year, and went on to serve as the Graduate Assistant for Student Organizations and Officer Support my second year. In addition to my graduate assistantships, I was able to gain experience with other areas in student affairs from other institutions in the DFW area including orientation programs at The University of Texas at Arlington and fraternity and sorority life at Southern Methodist University. I truly enjoy exploring all functional areas of student affairs and am excited to be a part of the Career Center. I love being a part of such an amazing team with CLASS and can’t wait to see all the ground-breaking things that are happening with the Career Center. One of my favorite parts of coaching, is when my students have that “light bulb” moment and they begin to see what their professional future can look like.

Book an appointment with Lauren

Connect with Lauren via LinkedIn