

Making human
learning visible

in a world of
invisible AI

Introduction/context

The importance of critical thinking...

increasingly cited as one of the most significant attributes our graduates will need when considering the intersection between human and GenAI learning
(Okolie et al, 2022)

...but what is it?



Critical thinking framework

Critical Clarity:

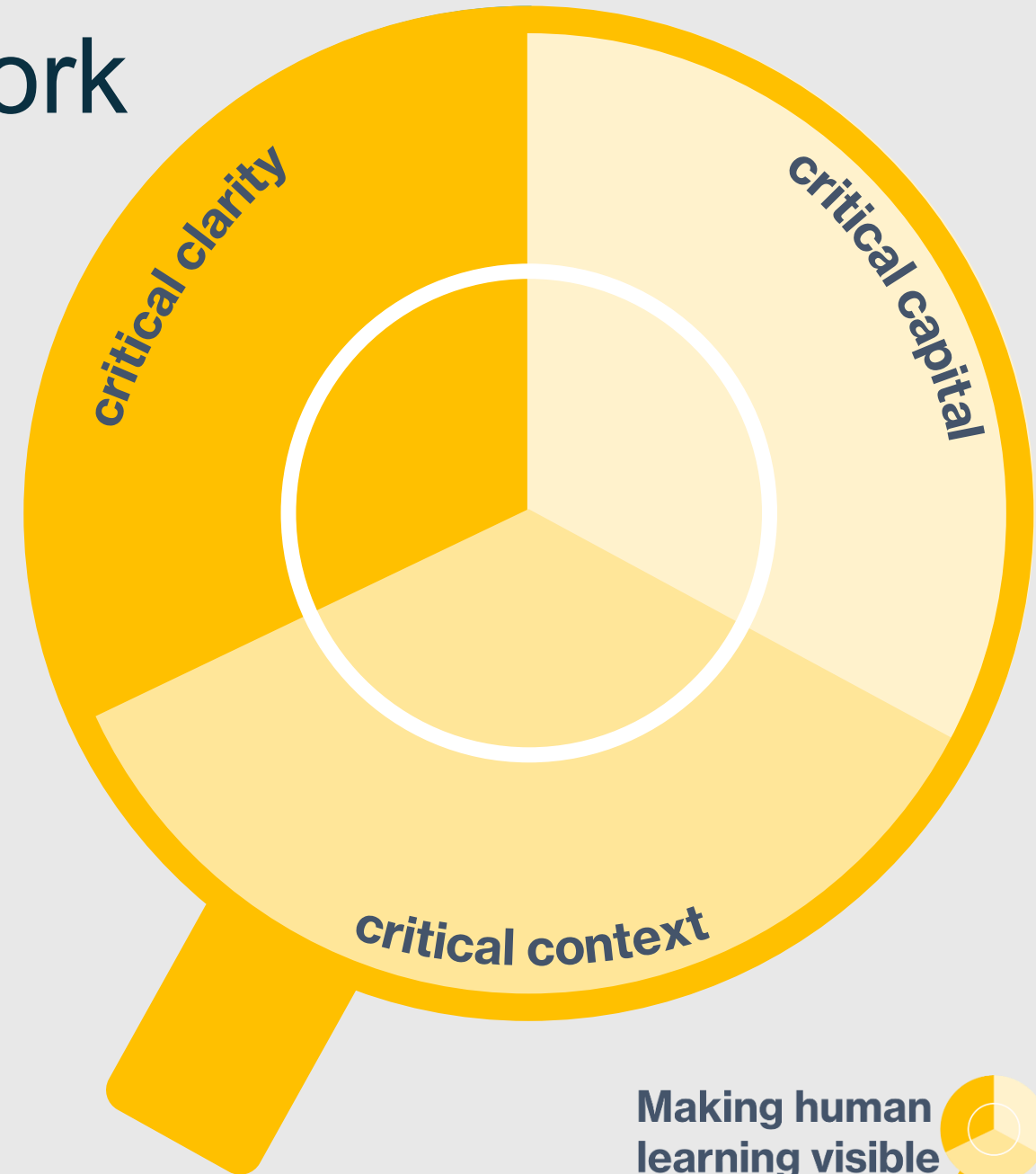
- Explicit articulation of what is meant.
- Critical thinking as a *process* or sequence of related actions.

Critical Context:

- Where students are on their learning journey, and where they are headed.
- The disciplinary context in which critical thinking is being developed and applied.

Critical Capital:

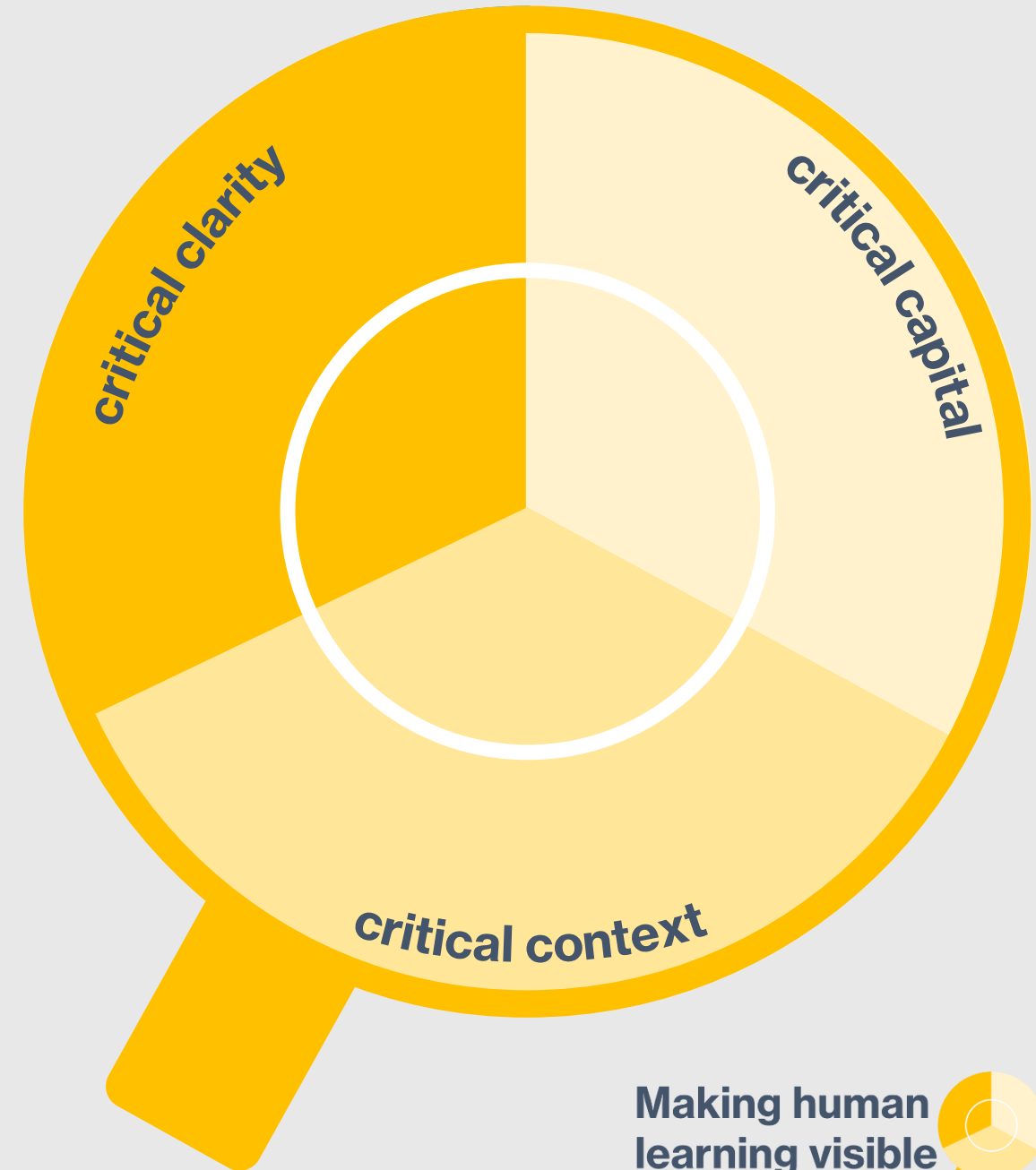
- Barriers that students may face, or strengths and diversity they bring, when engaging in critical thinking.



Using the framework

Individually, or in small groups, select cards to help you focus in on critical thinking:

- Your selections will help you focus in on the aspect of critical thinking you wish to address.
- Use your knowledge of your teaching and learning context.
- Consider what you know of the barriers your students often face in this area, as well as the diversity of knowledge and experience they bring.



Designing teaching and learning interventions

- Create opportunities to **slow learning down**, making the ‘mechanics’ of critical thinking more visible and supporting reflection.
- Design activities that enable students to ‘**zoom in**’ and apply skills in a focused way e.g. concentrating on several paragraphs rather than multiple articles; a specific problem or data set or source, rather than multiple ones.
- Draw on mediums from **popular culture** to practise critical thinking in a way that is more familiar to your students e.g. advertising, music, film. (Consider cultural norms and bias in this.)
- **Reduce cognitive load** by enabling students to practise *thinking* critically. Once confidence is gained in the *thinking* aspect it then becomes easier to capture this in words and to *write* critically.
- Show your students **how critical thinking is articulated** in their assessments through the assignment brief, marking criteria and feedback that will be given.
- Encourage students to think about the **specific challenges** they might encounter when engaging in critical thinking using items from the Critical Thinking Framework itself.
- Work with your students to **visually map** out what critical thinking looks like in your context. This can be shared by course teams over multiple units to reinforce learning.

Making human learning visible

in a world of invisible AI



Produced by the University of Bath, UK and Stellenbosch University, South Africa, as part of a QAA Collaborative Enhancement Project.

Making human learning visible in a world of invisible AI © 2025 by University of Bath, Stellenbosch University is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0. To view a copy of this license, visit <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>