Welcome to our presentation that examines critical thinking in the context of text messages, or critical thinking skills for advancing text literacy.

For this sample analysis we used a quote identified by a student in FSOS 2101 Preparation For Working with Families class as a source for exploration into advanced thinking. The theme is about limitations and the consequence if limitations are ignored. This quote may seem innocuous to you, but let’s see what the learner was able to accomplish with our levels of thinking format.

“If you fail to recognize your limitations, there is a price to be paid.”

(Corey & Corey, 2005, p. 370)

The critical thinking tool we will be using is the 6 levels of thinking of Bloom’s taxonomy.

**Remembering:** To restate the author’s words in my own, I would say, “As a helper, I should be familiar with my limitations in order to avoid negative consequences.” I have an example of what Corey and Corey are conveying, from my experience when I started college four years ago.

**Understanding:** Four years ago I became overwhelmed with pressure from my family. Since I was the first person to ever attend college in my family, I was pressured to select a major that did not interest me. I became a biomedical engineering major and soon learned that it was not for me. I was overwhelmed by course expectations and and family pressure. What resulted from my failure to recognize my limitations was that I gave up on school and did not care about my grades. This is exactly what Corey and Corey are expressing when they say it is important to be familiar with my limitations because there is a price to be paid if I fail to recognize them.
**Applying:** I imagine using this information in a family session with an 18 year-old Hmong bisexual female student and her parents. Both parents and student indicate that if there is not a change in sexual attitudes and behavior, neither will have anything to do with the other. I inform them of the limitations from their diverse perspectives and ask them to consider the high price they may encounter for not accepting the limitations of each other.

**Analyzing:** As I think about what the authors are implying and what my thoughts are, I find it reassuring. It took me years to learn my own limitations and when I ignore my limitations I have to pay a price. I can now see how teens can have problems in recognizing their own limitations when they must follow rules set for them by older adults. I am learning that I believe Somali elders should give Somali youth time and freedom to learn their limitations before there is a high price to be paid.

**Evaluating:** A follower of Somali tradition, like my friend Elhan, would criticize the authors and me by saying there are no limitations to anything and there is no price to be paid for making a decision. She would argue that there are no limitations, rather only temporary setbacks. And, any limitations would affect the community as a whole. I would disagree and take ownership of my personal limitations. I would tell Elhan that at some point someone, either individually or a community as a whole, would have to pay a price, account for, limitations.

**Creating:** Taking a step back and thinking about the quote in a larger perspective has allowed me to think about the following question: Is there a consequence for every setback and limitation? Yes, I believe there is a price to be paid for every limitation and setback. Other questions arise: Should communities take on individual’s limitations as their limitations? Is it really important for me to know my limitations? Is it possible that knowing my limitations would prevent me from going out of my comfort zone to experience new ideas?