

“Not everything is black over white, or white over black. No! The shades of grey prevail in life.”

- Pope Francis (2016)



LEARN TO DISCERN

A Coursebook for Catholic Thinkers

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THIS COURSEBOOK IS

WRITTEN BY

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WITH CHATGPT.

TOGETHER THEY DISCUSS

THE PROBLEM: GIGO

AND

THE SOLUTION: THE WGB.

INTRODUCTION

AI is coming! Protect your brain. AI is coming and much of it, of course, is already here. You may need better protection. You may need to upgrade the software your brain is currently using (Greco-Roman Logic) and get much faster software for your brain (discernment).

AI is coming. By 2030 there will be two dominant thinking machines on Earth: Carbon. Silicon.

Carbon – best example the human brain – is 13.8 billion years in development. It's far superior to AI silicon machines developed since the 1970s. Silicon can't even laugh or sing. However, silicon may be beating us in the software race.

Most human brains are using English Thinking, which is excellent but not enough to stay ahead of silicon thinking. English Thinking uses, as its operating system, Greco-Roman Logic. This is the binary algorithm of WHITE/BLACK. Right/Wrong, I like it/I don't like it, good/bad, us/them, etc etc. It's inside the box thinking. It's 2500 years old. It's useful but it's not enough.

We need to go beyond WHITE/BLACK judgmental thinking. We really need to upskill to outside the box thinking. We need trinary thinking - WHITE/BLACK/GREY. We need discernment. What we need to do is to upgrade our brain software especially the PFC (Pre Frontal Cortex).

“silicon may be beating us in the software race”

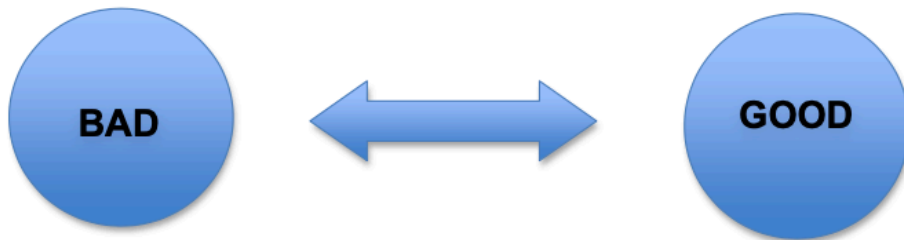
Nothing on Earth is more powerful than human thinking. For example its ten times faster than ChatGPT which also uses Greco-Roman Logic. It cannot think outside its own box. With *neuroplasticity*, your brain can!

“ChatGPT cannot do lateral thinking. Yet!”

Maybe that's a practical solution to moving forward with AI. Let's teach ChatGPT to think outside the box. Let's teach AI to do lateral thinking. To do x10 Thinking. To use discernment. We can even teach ChatGPT to do a WBG. This new coursebook shows how.

*Michael Hewitt-Gleeson
Rome, 2023*

Greco-Roman Logic is **binary** thinking ...
where the only alternative to **good** is **bad** ...



Lateral Thinking is **trinary** thinking ...
where the alternative to **good** is not only **bad** but also **better** ...





G I G O

MI

What does GIGO mean and why is it important?



GIGO stands for "Garbage In, Garbage Out." It is an acronym used to describe the idea that if you feed a computer or any other system with faulty, incomplete, or inaccurate data, the output or results produced by the system will also be flawed, inaccurate, or incomplete.

In other words, the quality of the output or result of any system is directly related to the quality of the input or data it receives. This concept is crucially important in many fields such as data analysis, artificial intelligence, and computer programming, as well as in everyday life.

For example, if you input wrong data into a calculator, the output result will be wrong as well. Similarly, if you analyze inaccurate data in a scientific experiment, the conclusions you draw from the data will also be flawed.

Therefore, it is essential to ensure that the data or input that a system receives is reliable, accurate, and consistent to produce a useful and valid output or result.

MI

GIGO says Garbage In Garbage Out. What does GIGO mean in the context of AI and ChatGPT?



In the context of AI and ChatGPT, GIGO (Garbage In Garbage Out) refers to the idea that the quality of the output generated by an AI system like ChatGPT is directly dependent on the quality of the input provided to it.

This means that if the input data fed into ChatGPT is of poor quality, biased, or incorrect, the model will learn from it and produce output that is also of poor quality, biased, or incorrect. On the other hand, if the input data is of high quality, diverse, and unbiased, the output produced by the model is likely to be of better quality and more accurate.

In other words, GIGO is a reminder that the quality of the output of an AI system is only as good as the quality of the input data. This underscores the importance of ensuring that the data used to train and test AI models is diverse, accurate, and representative of the real world.

MI

When it comes to using ChatGPT effectively what does GIGO mean?



When it comes to using ChatGPT effectively, GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out) means that the quality of the questions you ask ChatGPT will determine the quality of the answers you receive. If you ask well-formulated, clear, and relevant questions, ChatGPT is more likely to provide you with accurate and useful responses. On the other hand, if you ask vague, ambiguous, or irrelevant questions, the responses you receive may not be helpful or accurate.

To use ChatGPT effectively, you should provide it with relevant information and context when asking your questions. This helps ChatGPT understand the context of your question better and provide you with more accurate and informative responses. Additionally, you should avoid using language that may be confusing or ambiguous, and try to ask straightforward and specific questions that are related to the topic you are interested in.

Overall, by following these guidelines, you can improve the quality of the responses you receive from ChatGPT and make the most of this powerful tool.

MI

In the context of the quality of human prompting for ChatGPT what is the insight about GIGO?



In the context of the quality of human prompting for ChatGPT, GIGO (Garbage In Garbage Out) means that the quality of the prompts given by humans to ChatGPT will significantly impact the quality of the model's responses.

Human prompts can have a significant impact on the quality of the output generated by ChatGPT, as the model is trained on a large corpus of text data that is fed into it, including the prompts given by humans. If the prompts given by humans are of poor quality, contain errors, or are biased in some way, the model will learn from those prompts and produce output that reflects those biases and errors.

Therefore, it is essential to provide high-quality, diverse, and unbiased prompts to ChatGPT to ensure that the model's output is of high quality, accurate, and unbiased. This underscores the importance of using well-designed prompts, carefully reviewing and filtering prompts to eliminate bias, and continually monitoring and adjusting the prompts used to train the model to ensure that it produces high-quality output.

MI

If someone with weak thinking skills uses ChatGPT what will be the result compared with someone with superior thinking skills who uses ChatGPT?



The quality of the answers received from ChatGPT depends on the quality of the questions asked and the knowledge and expertise of the user in interpreting and applying the responses received.

While superior thinking skills may help a user in formulating better questions, understanding the context and nuances of the answers, and making informed decisions based on the information provided by ChatGPT, weak thinking skills may lead to less effective use of the tool. Users with weaker thinking skills may have difficulty in formulating clear and relevant questions, may misinterpret or misapply the information provided, or may fail to critically evaluate the accuracy and credibility of the responses.

However, ChatGPT can still be a useful tool for users with weaker thinking skills as it can provide them with access to information and knowledge that they may not have had access to otherwise. The key is for users to be aware of their thinking limitations and to take time to carefully consider the responses provided by ChatGPT, to critically evaluate the information provided, and to seek additional sources of information and advice if needed.

MI How can someone improve their thinking skills through ChatGPT?



While ChatGPT can provide users with access to a vast amount of information and knowledge, it is up to the user to apply critical thinking skills to evaluate and analyze the information received. Here are some ways that someone can improve their thinking skills through using ChatGPT:

1. Practice asking clear, concise, and specific questions: Asking well-formulated questions can help users get the most useful and accurate information from ChatGPT. By practicing asking clear and specific questions, users can improve their ability to identify and articulate their information needs.
2. Evaluate the credibility of sources: ChatGPT may provide a wealth of information, but not all sources are equally reliable or credible. Users should practice evaluating the credibility of sources and be discerning about the information they choose to accept or use.
3. Consider multiple perspectives: Critical thinking involves considering multiple perspectives on an issue. ChatGPT can help users access information from different sources and viewpoints, allowing them to consider a variety of perspectives on a topic.
4. Challenge assumptions: Critical thinking involves questioning assumptions and evaluating evidence. Users can use ChatGPT to challenge their own assumptions and explore different possibilities and perspectives on an issue.
5. Apply what you learn: Finally, critical thinking involves applying what you learn to real-world situations. Users can use ChatGPT to learn about new topics or explore different approaches to problems, but it is up to them to apply this knowledge to their own lives and decision-making processes.

By practicing these skills, users can improve their thinking skills and make the most of the information and knowledge provided by ChatGPT.

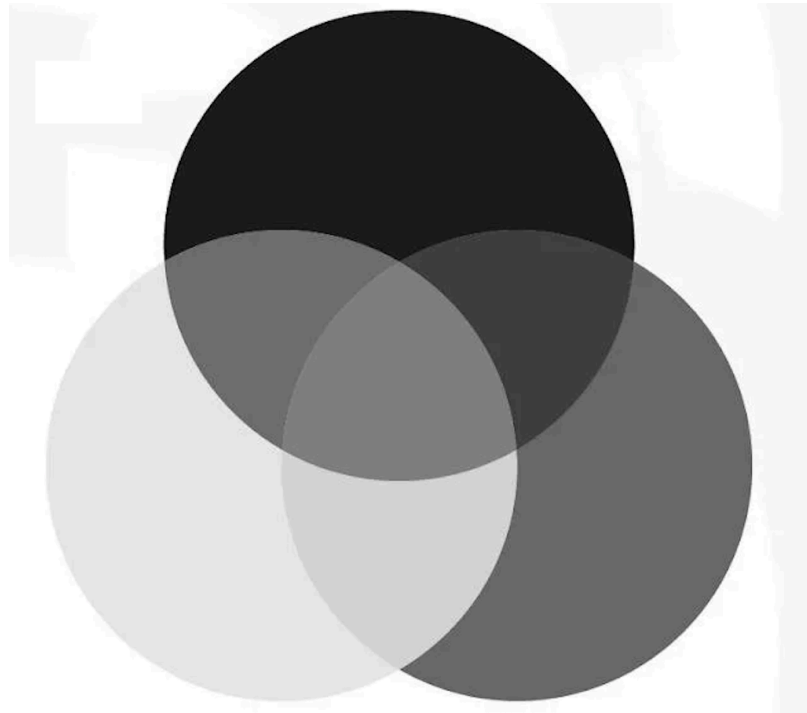
ChatGPT is a powerful tool with many positive benefits but what are the negative risks with using ChatGPT?



While ChatGPT is a powerful tool that can provide many positive benefits, there are also some potential negative risks associated with its use. Here are some examples of the negative risks:

1. **Inaccuracy and bias:** ChatGPT may provide inaccurate or biased information if it is fed with incomplete or incorrect data, or if the underlying algorithm has been trained on biased data. This can lead to users receiving inaccurate or misleading information.
2. **Dependence on technology:** Over-reliance on ChatGPT or other similar tools can lead to a loss of critical thinking skills or an over-reliance on technology to solve problems. This can lead to a lack of creativity and originality in problem-solving, and an over-reliance on pre-programmed solutions.
3. **Privacy and security risks:** Using ChatGPT may expose users to privacy and security risks. For example, personal information provided to ChatGPT may be collected and used for marketing or other purposes, or ChatGPT conversations may be intercepted by unauthorized parties.
4. **Ethical concerns:** The use of ChatGPT raises ethical concerns about the use of artificial intelligence in decision-making and the potential for biased or discriminatory outcomes.
5. **Addiction:** Like any other technology, the use of ChatGPT may lead to addiction or dependence, leading to users spending excessive amounts of time using the tool and neglecting other important aspects of their lives.

It is important for users to be aware of these risks and to take steps to mitigate them, such as verifying the accuracy and credibility of the information received, being mindful of privacy and security concerns, and using ChatGPT as a tool to supplement, rather than replace, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.



THE
WBG

MI

You

WBG means WHITE; BLACK; GREY (or GRAY). When asked to do a WBG on an idea or proposition one gives a list of ten WHITE points first. WHITE are those points that may be considered good or positive or of value about the idea. Then a list of BLACK points that can be considered negative or harmful about the idea. Then a list of GREY points that are neither WHITE nor BLACK but offer alternative points to consider, new possibilities, choices or innovative options to consider. That's a WBG.

**ChatGPT**

Thank you for explaining the concept of WBG (White, Black, Grey) analysis. It seems like a structured way to evaluate ideas or propositions by considering their positive aspects (White), negative aspects (Black), and alternative or innovative aspects (Grey). If you have an idea or proposition you'd like to analyze using the WBG framework, feel free to provide it, and I can help you generate the lists of White, Black, and Grey points.

Fridays should be free public transport days. Please give a list of ten WHITE points, ten BLACK points and ten GREY points.

 **ChatGPT**

Certainly! Here's a WBG analysis of the idea "By law, all Fridays should be free public transport days":

WHITE (Positive Points):

1. Encourages the use of public transportation, which can reduce traffic congestion and associated pollution.
2. Makes transportation more accessible to low-income individuals who rely on public transit.
3. Promotes social equity by providing equal access to transportation regardless of socioeconomic status.
4. Potentially boosts local economies by facilitating easier access to businesses and events.
5. Encourages car owners to leave their vehicles at home, leading to reduced carbon emissions and environmental benefits.
6. Increases community engagement as more people are likely to participate in events and activities.
7. Reduces the financial burden on commuters, especially those who rely on public transport for work or school.
8. Improves public health by encouraging physical activity associated with walking to and from transit stops.
9. Enhances social cohesion by fostering interactions among diverse groups of people during their commutes.
10. Demonstrates governmental commitment to sustainable transportation solutions.

BLACK (Negative Points):

1. Could strain the finances of public transportation agencies, leading to potential service cuts or fare increases on other days.
2. May lead to overcrowding on Fridays, resulting in discomfort and inconvenience for passengers.
3. Could incentivize increased use of public transit without corresponding investments in infrastructure, leading to service quality issues.
4. Potential loss of revenue for transportation agencies, impacting their ability to maintain and improve services.
5. Possible exploitation of the system by individuals who do not genuinely need free transportation.
6. Could lead to increased vandalism or misuse of public transportation resources.
7. May disrupt schedules for those who rely on transit for essential services, such as healthcare workers or emergency responders.
8. Could exacerbate existing inequalities if certain areas or demographics have better access to public transit services.
9. Potential strain on resources and services during peak travel times.
10. Could lead to logistical challenges in implementing and enforcing the policy effectively.

GREY (Neutral/Alternative Points):

1. Consideration of staggered free transport days to distribute demand more evenly throughout the week.
2. Implementing targeted promotional campaigns to educate the public about the benefits of using public transportation.
3. Exploring partnerships with businesses or sponsors to offset the costs of free transport days.
4. Introducing incentives for carpooling or alternative modes of transportation to alleviate strain on transit systems.
5. Assessing the feasibility of implementing a congestion charge or other measures to manage demand during peak times.
6. Conducting pilot programs in select regions to evaluate the effectiveness and feasibility of free transport days.
7. Providing additional support and resources to public transportation agencies to mitigate potential financial impacts.
8. Considering the integration of technology solutions to optimize transit operations and improve the passenger experience.
9. Encouraging employers to offer flexible work arrangements, such as telecommuting or flexible hours, to reduce peak travel demand.
10. Collaborating with community organizations to address specific transportation needs and priorities in underserved areas.

This analysis provides a comprehensive overview of the potential benefits, drawbacks, and alternative considerations associated with making all Fridays free public transport days.

Please do a WBG on this idea: People should wear badges showing whether they're in a good mood or bad mood that day.



ChatGPT

Sure, let's break down the idea of people wearing badges indicating their mood using the WBG framework:

White Points (Positive Aspects):

1. **Increased empathy:** Wearing mood badges could encourage others to be more understanding and empathetic towards individuals experiencing difficult emotions.
2. **Improved communication:** It might facilitate open communication by prompting others to ask how someone is feeling, leading to better support systems.
3. **Mental health awareness:** The visibility of mood badges could help raise awareness about the importance of mental health and destigmatize conversations around emotions.
4. **Social cohesion:** Knowing each other's moods could foster a sense of community and encourage people to support one another.
5. **Conflict prevention:** Awareness of someone's mood could prevent misunderstandings and conflicts by prompting more considerate interactions.
6. **Emotional support:** Individuals wearing badges indicating a bad mood may receive additional emotional support from others.
7. **Personal reflection:** Wearing a mood badge could prompt self-awareness and reflection on one's emotions, leading to better self-regulation.
8. **Reduced social pressure:** It could create a more accepting environment where people feel comfortable expressing their emotions without judgment.
9. **Enhanced workplace dynamics:** In workplaces, mood badges could promote a more supportive and understanding atmosphere, potentially improving productivity and morale.
10. **Opportunities for intervention:** Recognizing someone's bad mood could allow for early intervention or support if needed.

Black Points (Negative Aspects):

1. Privacy concerns: Mandatory disclosure of mood may infringe upon individuals' privacy and autonomy, especially if they prefer to keep their emotions private.
2. Stigmatization: People wearing badges indicating a bad mood may face discrimination or negative perceptions from others.
3. Emotional manipulation: There's a risk of individuals being targeted or treated differently based on their mood, leading to potential exploitation or unfair treatment.
4. Emotional labor: Constantly displaying one's mood could impose emotional labor on individuals, forcing them to manage their emotions to fit societal expectations.
5. Misinterpretation: Mood badges may not accurately reflect someone's emotions, leading to misunderstandings or false assumptions about their state of mind.
6. Social pressure to wear badges: Individuals may feel obligated to wear mood badges even if they don't want to, leading to discomfort or resentment.
7. Dependency on badges: Relying on mood badges to gauge someone's emotional state could discourage direct communication and empathy-building skills.
8. Increased anxiety: Constantly being aware of others' moods may heighten anxiety levels for both wearers and observers.
9. Cultural differences: Different cultures may have varying norms regarding the expression and interpretation of emotions, leading to misunderstandings or conflicts.
10. Lack of effectiveness: Mood badges may not effectively convey complex emotions or mental states, leading to oversimplification or miscommunication.

Grey Points (Neutral or Alternative Aspects):

1. **Optional participation:** Making mood badges voluntary could address privacy concerns while still allowing individuals to express their emotions if they choose.
2. **Customizable badges:** Providing options for customizable badges (e.g., emojis, color-coded systems) could offer more nuanced ways for individuals to convey their mood.
3. **Temporary badges:** Implementing a system where mood badges are only worn temporarily or during specific events could mitigate some of the negative effects while still promoting empathy.
4. **Education and training:** Providing education and training on emotional intelligence and empathy alongside mood badges could enhance their effectiveness and mitigate potential negative outcomes.
5. **Supportive environments:** Creating environments where individuals feel safe and supported regardless of their mood could reduce the need for mood badges while still promoting emotional well-being.
6. **Technology-based solutions:** Implementing digital or wearable technology that tracks and displays mood discreetly could address privacy concerns while still promoting emotional awareness.
7. **Clear guidelines:** Establishing clear guidelines and etiquette for interpreting and responding to mood badges could help mitigate misunderstandings and promote respectful interactions.
8. **Community input:** Involving communities and stakeholders in the design and implementation of mood badge systems could ensure that they address specific needs and concerns.
9. **Periodic review:** Regularly reviewing the effectiveness and impact of mood badge systems could allow for adjustments and improvements based on feedback and experiences.
10. **Integration with existing support systems:** Incorporating mood badges into existing support systems, such as employee assistance programs or mental health resources, could enhance their effectiveness and promote holistic well-being.

**You**

Someone has put forward this proposition: What if marriage was not forever but for a five-year period with an option to renew? Please do a WBG on that proposition.

**ChatGPT**

Certainly, let's analyze the proposition "What if marriage was not forever but for a five-year period with an option to renew?" using the WBG framework:

White Points (Positive Aspects):

1. **Increased flexibility:** A fixed-term marriage could offer individuals the flexibility to reassess their relationship every five years and make decisions based on their current circumstances.
2. **Reduced stigma around divorce:** Knowing that marriage is not necessarily permanent could reduce the stigma associated with divorce, allowing individuals to end unhappy or unhealthy relationships without as much social pressure.
3. **Improved communication:** The need to renegotiate the marriage contract every five years could encourage open communication and ongoing discussions about needs, expectations, and goals within the relationship.
4. **Enhanced commitment:** Some individuals may feel more secure in committing to a shorter-term marriage knowing that there is an option to renew, leading to increased commitment and investment in the relationship.
5. **Financial protection:** A fixed-term marriage could provide financial protection in case of divorce by establishing clear guidelines for asset division and spousal support at the end of each term.
6. **Reduced legal complexity:** Shorter-term marriages may simplify legal processes associated with divorce, such as custody arrangements and property division, compared to traditional lifelong marriages.
7. **Lower barriers to leaving abusive relationships:** A fixed-term marriage could make it easier for individuals to leave abusive or unhealthy relationships without feeling trapped or financially disadvantaged.
8. **Opportunity for growth:** Regularly reassessing and renewing the marriage contract could provide opportunities for personal and relational growth, allowing couples to adapt and evolve together over time.
9. **Increased marital satisfaction:** Knowing that the marriage is subject to review and renewal may motivate couples to prioritize communication, mutual respect, and relationship satisfaction to ensure renewal.
10. **Aligning with changing societal norms:** A fixed-term marriage reflects the changing attitudes toward marriage and relationships in modern society, where individuals seek greater autonomy and flexibility in their personal lives.

Black Points (Negative Aspects):

1. **Undermining commitment:** The concept of a fixed-term marriage may undermine the traditional notion of lifelong commitment, leading to less investment in the relationship and increased divorce rates.
2. **Emotional instability:** The uncertainty surrounding the future of the marriage every five years could create emotional stress and instability for both partners, impacting the overall well-being of the relationship.
3. **Legal complexities:** Implementing a system of fixed-term marriages may introduce legal complexities, particularly regarding property rights, inheritance, and child custody arrangements, which could lead to disputes and litigation.
4. **Impact on children:** Shorter-term marriages may disrupt the stability and emotional well-being of children, especially if they have to navigate multiple divorces and changes in family structure.
5. **Social implications:** Fixed-term marriages may face social stigma or judgment from those who uphold traditional values of lifelong commitment, leading to ostracization or discrimination against couples who choose this option.
6. **Financial insecurity:** The uncertainty of marriage renewal may create financial insecurity for individuals, particularly if they rely on their spouse for financial support or have invested significant resources into the relationship.
7. **Decreased motivation to work through challenges:** Knowing that the marriage has an expiration date may decrease couples' motivation to work through challenges and conflicts, leading to premature dissolution of the relationship.
8. **Increased pressure to stay together:** Some couples may feel pressured to stay together or renew their marriage despite unhappiness or incompatibility due to societal expectations or fear of judgment.
9. **Reduced trust and intimacy:** The cyclical nature of fixed-term marriages may erode trust and intimacy between partners, as each renewal period could be seen as a potential opportunity for one or both parties to exit the relationship.
10. **Impact on long-term planning:** The uncertainty surrounding the future of the marriage may hinder couples' ability to make long-term plans together, such as buying a home or starting a family, leading to uncertainty and instability in other areas of life.

Grey Points (Neutral or Alternative Aspects):

1. Counseling and support services: Implementing mandatory counseling or relationship education programs at each renewal period could help couples address challenges and strengthen their relationship skills.
2. Customizable marriage contracts: Allowing couples to customize their marriage contracts based on their preferences and needs could provide greater flexibility and autonomy within the fixed-term marriage model.
3. Trial periods: Introducing a trial period at the beginning of the marriage, during which couples can assess compatibility and decide whether to continue or terminate the relationship without the need for renewal, could mitigate some of the negative effects of fixed-term marriages.
4. Legal safeguards: Implementing legal safeguards to protect vulnerable parties, such as provisions for spousal support and asset division, could help address concerns about financial insecurity and exploitation within the fixed-term marriage system.
5. Public education campaigns: Launching public education campaigns to promote the benefits and challenges of fixed-term marriages could help normalize this alternative approach to long-term partnerships and reduce stigma and misconceptions.
6. Continuous improvement: Establishing mechanisms for ongoing evaluation and adjustment of the fixed-term marriage model based on research findings and stakeholder feedback could ensure that it remains responsive to the needs and concerns of couples and families.

This WBG analysis highlights the complex considerations involved in implementing a fixed-term marriage model, balancing potential benefits with potential drawbacks and exploring alternative approaches to support healthy and fulfilling relationships.

People should be allowed to work 3 days a week at the office and the rest of the week at home. Do a WBG.

ChatGPT

Certainly, let's analyze the proposition "People should be allowed to work 3 days a week at the office and the rest of the week at home" using the WBG framework:

White Points (Positive Aspects):

1. **Work-life balance:** Allowing employees to work remotely for part of the week can improve work-life balance by reducing commuting time and providing more flexibility to manage personal and professional responsibilities.
2. **Increased productivity:** Some individuals may find they are more productive when working from home due to fewer distractions and a quieter environment, leading to higher efficiency during remote work days.
3. **Cost savings:** Remote work can lead to cost savings for both employees and employers, such as reduced transportation expenses, lower office overheads, and potential tax deductions for home office expenses.
4. **Environmental benefits:** Decreased commuting can lead to reduced carbon emissions and environmental impact, contributing to sustainability efforts and mitigating traffic congestion and air pollution.
5. **Improved employee satisfaction:** Offering flexibility in where and how work is performed can increase employee satisfaction and morale, leading to higher retention rates and a more positive workplace culture.
6. **Access to a broader talent pool:** Remote work options can expand access to talent beyond geographic constraints, allowing employers to recruit individuals with diverse backgrounds and skills from different locations.
7. **Health and well-being:** Remote work can promote better health and well-being by reducing stress associated with commuting, providing more time for exercise and self-care, and offering a safer work environment during public health crises.
8. **Reduced absenteeism:** Flexible work arrangements, such as remote work options, can reduce absenteeism by allowing employees to better manage health-related issues, personal appointments, and family responsibilities without taking time off.
9. **Workforce diversity and inclusion:** Remote work options can enhance workforce diversity and inclusion by accommodating individuals with disabilities, caregivers, and those who may face barriers to traditional office-based work.
10. **Business continuity:** Remote work arrangements can improve business continuity by enabling employees to work from alternative locations during emergencies, natural disasters, or other disruptions to normal operations.

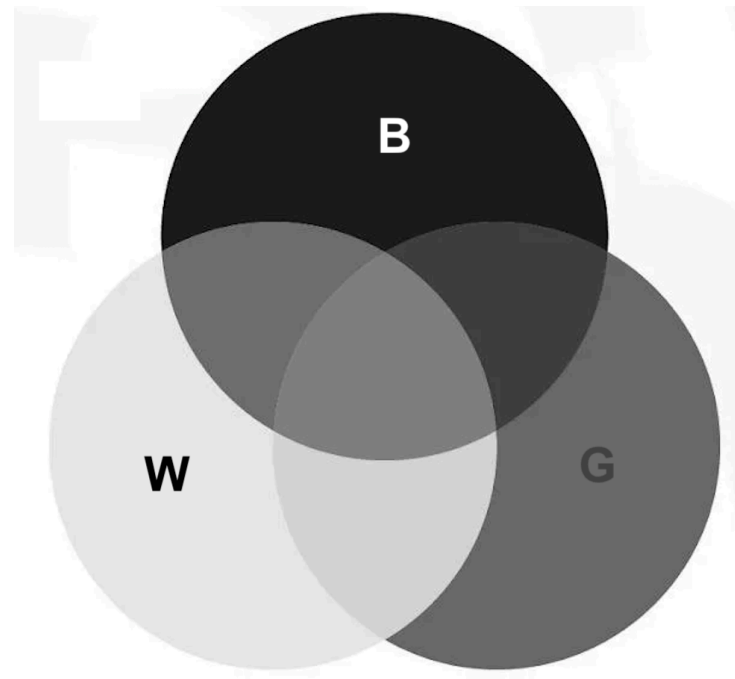
Black Points (Negative Aspects):

1. **Decreased collaboration and innovation:** Remote work may hinder spontaneous collaboration and creativity that often occur in face-to-face interactions, leading to potential delays in decision-making and innovation.
2. **Communication challenges:** Remote work can create communication challenges, such as misinterpretation of tone in written messages, difficulty in conveying complex ideas remotely, and potential feelings of isolation or disconnection among team members.
3. **Monitoring and supervision:** Employers may face challenges in monitoring employee performance and ensuring accountability when working remotely, leading to concerns about decreased productivity or misuse of work hours.
4. **Technology issues:** Remote work relies heavily on technology, and technical issues such as internet outages, software glitches, or hardware malfunctions can disrupt workflow and productivity.
5. **Inequity among employees:** Not all employees may have access to suitable home office setups or reliable internet connections, leading to inequities in productivity, engagement, and career advancement opportunities.
6. **Potential for overwork:** Remote work can blur the boundaries between work and personal life, leading to longer work hours, burnout, and difficulty in unplugging from work-related tasks during non-working hours.
7. **Impact on company culture:** Remote work arrangements may weaken company culture and camaraderie among employees, particularly for new hires or those who work remotely for extended periods, leading to feelings of isolation or detachment.
8. **Security risks:** Working remotely can pose security risks for sensitive data and information, such as increased susceptibility to cyberattacks, data breaches, and unauthorized access to company systems and networks.
9. **Reduced serendipity:** Remote work may limit serendipitous encounters and informal networking opportunities that often occur in office settings, potentially impacting professional development and career advancement.
10. **Legal and regulatory compliance:** Remote work arrangements may raise legal and regulatory compliance concerns, such as ensuring compliance with labor laws, tax regulations, and occupational health and safety standards across different jurisdictions.

Grey Points (Neutral or Alternative Aspects):

1. Hybrid work models: Implementing hybrid work models that combine remote work and office-based work can offer a middle ground solution, allowing employees to enjoy the benefits of both flexibility and in-person collaboration.
2. Flexible scheduling: Offering flexible scheduling options, such as staggered start times or compressed workweeks, can accommodate diverse employee preferences and work styles while still ensuring adequate coverage and collaboration.
3. Performance metrics and evaluation: Establishing clear performance metrics and evaluation criteria can help mitigate concerns about accountability and productivity in remote work arrangements, ensuring that employees are held accountable for results rather than time spent in the office.
4. Training and support: Providing training and support for both employees and managers on effective remote work practices, communication strategies, and technology tools can help maximize the benefits of remote work while addressing potential challenges and concerns.
5. Workspace ergonomics: Encouraging employees to set up ergonomic home office environments and providing resources or stipends for purchasing necessary equipment can help mitigate health and safety risks associated with remote work.
6. Regular check-ins and feedback: Implementing regular check-ins, team meetings, and feedback sessions can foster communication, collaboration, and a sense of connection among remote team members, helping to maintain team cohesion and productivity.

This WBG analysis highlights the multifaceted considerations involved in implementing a hybrid work model that combines office-based work with remote work options. It's important to weigh the potential benefits and drawbacks while also exploring alternative approaches to meet the needs of both employees and employers.



LEARN TO DISCERN

MI

You

Thanks Chatbot. You play a helpful role in the use of the WBG thinking tool for learning how to discern. Discernment is important because it goes beyond judgment. Consider these points:

1. Without a WBG you may not be able to appreciate a good that seems bad to you at first sight.
2. Without a WBG you may fail to see the disadvantages of a proposal that you like very much.
3. The WBG can reveal that a situation is not only good or bad but can also lead to a much better option.
4. Without a WBG most judgments are based not on the value of the idea but on your emotions at the time.
5. With a WBG you decide whether or not you like the idea after you have thought about it instead of before.
6. The WBG is simple but powerful brain software and the more you use it the more skilled at using it you become.

 **ChatGPT**

Indeed, discernment is a crucial skill that goes beyond mere judgment. Let's explore how the points you've listed relate to the concept of discernment:

1. **Appreciating hidden value:** Discernment involves the ability to see beyond surface appearances and recognize the underlying value or potential in a situation, idea, or person. The WBG framework aids in this process by guiding individuals to consider both positive and negative aspects, enabling a more nuanced understanding and appreciation of the complexities involved.
2. **Identifying drawbacks:** Discernment requires a keen awareness of potential pitfalls or drawbacks, even in proposals or ideas that may initially seem appealing. By systematically evaluating the downsides through WBG analysis, individuals can exercise discernment in assessing the overall merit and feasibility of a given idea or course of action.
3. **Exploring alternative options:** Discernment involves the ability to recognize that there may be multiple pathways or solutions to a given situation, not just binary choices between good and bad. The WBG framework facilitates discernment by encouraging individuals to explore grey areas and consider alternative options that may lead to better outcomes or compromises.
4. **Reducing emotional bias:** Emotions can cloud judgment and inhibit discernment by skewing perceptions and influencing decision-making. By employing the structured approach of WBG analysis, individuals can mitigate the impact of emotions and cultivate a more objective and discerning mindset, focusing on rational evaluation rather than subjective reactions.
5. **Postponing judgment:** Discernment entails withholding judgment until sufficient information has been gathered and considered. With WBG analysis, individuals refrain from forming premature opinions and instead engage in thorough deliberation, allowing for a more discerning assessment of the situation or idea at hand.
6. **Enhancing cognitive skills:** Discernment is a skill that can be honed through practice and experience. By regularly utilizing the WBG framework, individuals develop their cognitive abilities, critical thinking skills, and capacity for discernment, enabling them to make more informed and thoughtful decisions in various contexts.

In summary, the WBG thinking tool serves as a practical aid in cultivating discernment by guiding individuals to assess situations, ideas, and proposals with greater depth, clarity, and objectivity. Through systematic analysis and reflection, individuals can sharpen their discernment skills and make wiser choices that align with their values and goals.

On Discernment and The WBG

POPE FRANCIS says, "We cannot offer monolithic and pre-packaged answers to today's complex reality, but we must invest our energies in announcing the essential, which is God's mercy, and manifesting it through closeness, fatherhood, gentleness, refining the art of discernment". (Rome 16/2/24) He has so often spoken about discernment in making sound decisions about the meaning and directions of our life. He describes discernment as a process. That it involves knowledge, insight, experience, wisdom and effort. Francis stresses the impact that our decisions can have on the world. But, it's not easy.

Everyone agrees that we should all be more innovative. We should be more agile, more decisive, more efficient, adaptive, and more productive. But better thinking skill requires a proven process, daily practise and plenty of patience. "Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them — every day begin the task anew." - Saint Francis de Sales

In essence, discernment is a skill or quality that enables individuals to navigate complex situations and make choices that lead to positive outcomes. Why don't people THINK? How often have you heard that question? It is easy to say to someone, "Why don't you be more open-minded?" But it is not so easy to actually do it. However, a WBG is specific software for your brain. It is possible to ask someone "Do a WBG on this suggestion" and the person then takes pride in the skill of being able to deliberately see the White, Black and Grey points in the situation. They can become instantly innovative!

Instead of just saying that you like an idea, or you don't like it, you can use a WBG. When you use a WBG, you give the White or positive points, the Black of negative points, and also the points which are neither White nor Black but are Grey and possibly better. You can use a WBG to escape from slow judgmental thinking (I-am-right-and-you-are-wrong) and to open up a way of seeing new ideas, suggestions, and research. You can ask someone else to do a WBG, or you can be asked to do one yourself.



ChatGPT

This excerpt beautifully captures the essence of discernment and highlights its importance in navigating life's complexities. Discernment, as emphasized by Pope Francis and Saint Francis de Sales, is indeed a process that requires a combination of knowledge, insight, experience, wisdom, and effort. It involves carefully considering the implications of our decisions and striving to make choices that align with our values and contribute to positive outcomes for ourselves and others.

The WBG framework serves as a valuable tool for enhancing discernment by providing a structured approach to decision-making. By systematically evaluating the white, black, and grey aspects of a situation or idea, individuals can gain a deeper understanding of its complexities and implications. This allows for more informed and nuanced decision-making, as well as the exploration of innovative solutions and possibilities.

Moreover, the use of WBG promotes open-mindedness and flexibility in thinking, enabling individuals to transcend binary judgments and embrace a more holistic perspective. It encourages individuals to consider alternative viewpoints and potential outcomes, fostering a culture of creativity and innovation.

 **You**

In thinking, both human and machine, the GIGO problem is always present. How can doing a WBG help you avoid or minimise the GIGO problem?

 **ChatGPT**

The GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out) problem refers to the concept that the quality of the output produced by a system is determined by the quality of the input. In other words, if the input data or information is flawed or of poor quality, the output generated by the system will also be flawed or of poor quality.

Doing a WBG (White, Black, Grey) analysis can help avoid or minimize the GIGO problem in several ways:

1. **Structured Evaluation:** WBG provides a structured approach to evaluating ideas or propositions, guiding individuals to systematically consider both positive (White) and negative (Black) aspects, as well as alternative or nuanced perspectives (Grey). By breaking down the analysis into distinct categories, it helps ensure that all relevant factors are considered, reducing the likelihood of overlooking important information or biases in the input data.
2. **Comprehensive Assessment:** WBG encourages individuals to consider a wide range of factors and potential outcomes when evaluating an idea or proposition. By examining multiple dimensions of the issue, individuals are less likely to rely solely on superficial or biased input data, leading to a more comprehensive and balanced assessment of the situation.
3. **Critical Thinking:** WBG promotes critical thinking by prompting individuals to question assumptions, challenge preconceived notions, and evaluate the validity of different perspectives. By engaging in rigorous analysis and reflection, individuals can identify and rectify any flaws or biases in the input data, thereby improving the quality of the output produced by their thinking process.
4. **Informed Decision-Making:** By considering both the positive and negative aspects of an idea or proposition, as well as alternative perspectives, WBG enables individuals to make more informed and thoughtful decisions. This helps mitigate the risk of making flawed or irrational decisions based on incomplete or biased input data, thereby reducing the likelihood of GIGO outcomes.
5. **Iterative Improvement:** WBG encourages individuals to continuously refine and improve their thinking process by incorporating feedback, reassessing assumptions, and exploring alternative perspectives. By iteratively analyzing and refining their ideas, individuals can gradually enhance the quality of their thinking and minimize the likelihood of GIGO problems in the output.

Overall, WBG provides a systematic and structured approach to thinking and decision-making, helping individuals avoid or minimize the GIGO problem by promoting comprehensive assessment, critical thinking, informed decision-making, and iterative improvement.

 **You**

Please do a WBG on this idea: Instead of doing a WBG by myself I can do my WBG with the help of ChatGBT?

 **ChatGPT**

Certainly! Let's do a WBG analysis on the idea: "Instead of doing a WBG by myself, I can do my WBG with the help of ChatGBT."

White Points (Positive Aspects):

1. **Accessibility:** Using ChatGBT allows for convenient access to a structured thinking tool from anywhere with an internet connection, enabling individuals to engage in WBG analysis without the need for specialized training or resources.
2. **Efficiency:** ChatGBT can facilitate faster and more efficient WBG analysis by providing immediate responses and guidance, saving time compared to conducting the analysis manually.
3. **Structured Approach:** ChatGBT guides users through the WBG framework, ensuring that all relevant aspects of the idea are considered systematically and comprehensively.
4. **Objective Perspective:** ChatGBT offers an objective perspective and impartial analysis, helping users overcome personal biases and emotions that may affect their judgment when conducting the analysis independently.
5. **Learning Opportunity:** Engaging with ChatGBT in WBG analysis provides a valuable learning opportunity for users to develop critical thinking skills and improve their ability to evaluate ideas and proposals.
6. **Collaboration Potential:** ChatGBT can facilitate collaborative WBG analysis by allowing multiple users to contribute their perspectives and insights, fostering teamwork and collective decision-making.
7. **Accessibility for All:** ChatGBT can be accessed by individuals with diverse backgrounds, education levels, and abilities, making WBG analysis more inclusive and accessible to a wider audience.
8. **Consistency:** ChatGBT ensures consistency in the application of the WBG framework, reducing variability in the analysis process and promoting standardized decision-making practices.
9. **Error Reduction:** ChatGBT minimizes the risk of errors or oversights in WBG analysis by providing prompts and guidance throughout the process, helping users conduct more thorough and accurate evaluations.
10. **Continuous Improvement:** Feedback received from users interacting with ChatGBT can be used to enhance its capabilities and effectiveness over time, ensuring ongoing improvement in its ability to support WBG analysis.

Black Points (Negative Aspects):

1. **Lack of Human Interaction:** Using ChatGBT for WBG analysis may lack the human element and interpersonal communication that can enrich the analysis process, potentially leading to a less nuanced or empathetic evaluation.
2. **Limited Customization:** ChatGBT may not offer the same level of customization or adaptability as conducting WBG analysis independently, limiting users' ability to tailor the analysis to their specific needs or preferences.
3. **Dependency Risk:** Over-reliance on ChatGBT for WBG analysis may create a dependency on the tool, reducing users' ability to conduct independent critical thinking and analysis.
4. **Technical Issues:** ChatGBT's functionality and reliability may be subject to technical issues or glitches, potentially disrupting the WBG analysis process and impeding users' ability to complete the evaluation.
5. **Language Limitations:** ChatGBT's effectiveness in guiding WBG analysis may be limited by language barriers or communication challenges, particularly for users with limited proficiency in the tool's supported languages.
6. **Privacy Concerns:** Users may have concerns about the privacy and security of their data when interacting with ChatGBT, particularly if sensitive or confidential information is shared during the WBG analysis process.
7. **Learning Curve:** Users may require time to familiarize themselves with ChatGBT's interface and functionalities, potentially leading to a learning curve that could hinder initial engagement with the tool.
8. **Lack of Flexibility:** ChatGBT's predefined structure and prompts may limit users' flexibility in conducting WBG analysis, potentially constraining their ability to explore alternative perspectives or adapt the analysis to unique situations.
9. **Interpretation Challenges:** ChatGBT's responses may not always accurately interpret users' inputs or questions, leading to misunderstandings or miscommunication that could impact the quality of the WBG analysis.
10. **Reliance on Technology:** ChatGBT's availability and accessibility are contingent on technological infrastructure, posing a risk of disruption or unavailability in situations where internet connectivity or access to digital devices is limited or compromised.

Grey Points (Neutral or Alternative Aspects):

1. **Supplementary Tool:** ChatGBT can serve as a supplementary tool for WBG analysis, complementing rather than replacing traditional methods of conducting the analysis independently.
2. **User Empowerment:** ChatGBT's guidance and assistance can empower users to conduct more thorough and structured WBG analysis, enhancing their confidence and proficiency in the process over time.
3. **Augmented Decision-Making:** ChatGBT's support in WBG analysis can augment users' decision-making capabilities by providing additional insights, perspectives, and considerations to inform their evaluations.
4. **Resource Efficiency:** ChatGBT's automated nature enables efficient utilization of resources for WBG analysis, requiring minimal time and effort from users compared to manual methods.
5. **Accessibility Enhancement:** ChatGBT's accessibility features, such as text-to-speech functionality, can enhance accessibility for users with disabilities, facilitating their participation in WBG analysis.
6. **Scalability:** ChatGBT's scalability allows for widespread adoption and use across diverse contexts and settings, accommodating varying needs and preferences for WBG analysis.
7. **Learning Curve:** Users may require time to familiarize themselves with ChatGBT's interface and functionalities, potentially leading to a learning curve that could hinder initial engagement with the tool.
8. **Lack of Flexibility:** ChatGBT's predefined structure and prompts may limit users' flexibility in conducting WBG analysis, potentially constraining their ability to explore alternative perspectives or adapt the analysis to unique situations.
9. **Interpretation Challenges:** ChatGBT's responses may not always accurately interpret users' inputs or questions, leading to misunderstandings or miscommunication that could impact the quality of the WBG analysis.
10. **Reliance on Technology:** ChatGBT's availability and accessibility are contingent on technological infrastructure, posing a risk of disruption or unavailability in situations where internet connectivity or access to digital devices is limited or compromised.

Catholics run 220,000 schools worldwide. Traditionally, the thinking/brain software that schools teach children is JUDGMENT, that is Greco-Roman Logic; the right/wrong; black/white, good/bad binary system. 'Get the RIGHT answer. Don't make mistakes. Pass the exam' etc. As always Catholics are adapt to a changing world. Following recent popes, Pope Francis is moving the thinking/brain software of Catholic schools beyond JUDGMENT to DISCERNMENT. Pope Francis says "Everything is not BLACK over WHITE or WHITE over BLACK. The shades of GREY prevail in life". What role can teaching the WBG play?



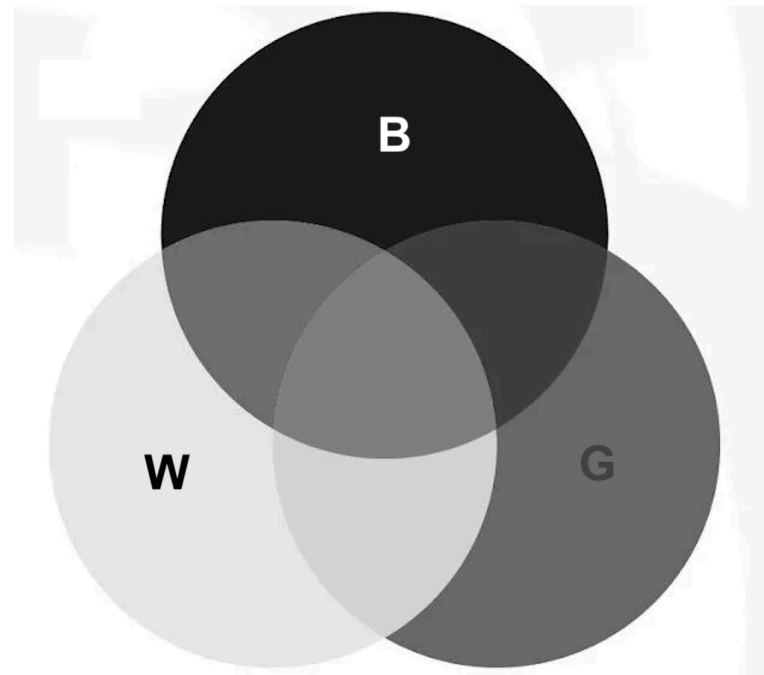
ChatGPT

Teaching the WBG (White, Black, Grey) framework can play a crucial role in fostering discernment in Catholic schools and beyond, aligning with Pope Francis' emphasis on moving beyond traditional binary thinking towards a more nuanced understanding of the complexities of life. Here's how teaching the WBG can contribute to this shift:

1. **Embracing Complexity:** The WBG framework encourages individuals to recognize and appreciate the nuances and complexities of situations, ideas, and decisions. By exploring white, black, and grey points, students learn to move beyond simplistic binary thinking and embrace the multifaceted nature of reality.
2. **Promoting Critical Thinking:** Teaching the WBG equips students with critical thinking skills essential for discernment. They learn to evaluate arguments and perspectives from multiple angles, identify biases, and consider alternative viewpoints before reaching conclusions. This empowers them to make informed decisions based on thorough analysis rather than superficial judgment.

3. **Cultivating Open-mindedness:** The WBG approach fosters open-mindedness by challenging students to consider diverse perspectives and possibilities. Rather than rigidly adhering to preconceived notions of right and wrong, they learn to approach issues with curiosity and receptivity to new ideas, fostering a spirit of intellectual humility and openness to growth.
4. **Encouraging Empathy and Understanding:** Through the exploration of grey areas, students develop empathy and understanding towards differing viewpoints and experiences. They learn to appreciate the complexities of human situations and cultivate compassion and empathy in their interactions with others, fostering a sense of solidarity and community.
5. **Preparing for Real-world Challenges:** In today's rapidly changing and interconnected world, the ability to navigate complexity and uncertainty is essential. By teaching the WBG, schools prepare students to confront real-world challenges with resilience, adaptability, and discernment, empowering them to make wise decisions and contribute positively to society.
6. **Aligning with Catholic Social Teaching:** The principles of Catholic Social Teaching emphasize the importance of solidarity, justice, and the common good. Teaching the WBG aligns with these principles by equipping students with the skills and mindset needed to critically analyze social issues, discern ethical courses of action, and work towards a more just and compassionate world.

In summary, teaching the WBG framework in Catholic schools helps cultivate discernment among students by fostering critical thinking, open-mindedness, empathy, and preparedness for real-world challenges. By embracing the shades of grey in life and moving beyond binary thinking, students are empowered to make ethical decisions guided by wisdom, compassion, and a commitment to the common good.



DISCERN AND EARN

BETTER THINKERS GET JOBS ...

Why are the better thinkers getting the better jobs?

It's because better thinkers are creating **value**.

They are getting the job done **without creating a fuss**. They are getting on with others. They are co-operating and solving problems.

They are mindful of creating opportunities. They use their brainpower to give their employer a much better **return on payroll**.

Better thinkers are more job-friendly. Employers prefer better thinkers.

BETTER THINKERS ... BETTER LIFE

This life strategy will create value in ten ways:

Wealth: Better decisions = better bank balance

Your career, business, investment and commercial success is directly related to the quality of your decisions. Every day you make decisions that will either increase your wealth or decrease your wealth.

Health: Poorer choices = poorer health

Your physical, mental and emotional health cannot be separated from the pattern of choices you make. Every hour of every day you are designing your future. If your designs are weak your future cannot be strong.

Productivity: Faster strategies = faster results

The possibilities, options, strategies, tactics, pathways, networks and environments that are available for you to think about will either accelerate or inhibit your own personal productivity and results.

Security: Deeper thinking = deeper security

Your survival and growth, in a Darwinian sense, cannot be separated from how you make your decisions over time. If you don't do your own thinking others will do it for you. These other people, institutions or authorities may not do it well, at all, or even in your best interests.



**“DISCERNMENT IS AN ART,
AN ART THAT CAN BE
LEARNED AND WHICH HAS ITS
OWN RULES. IF LEARNED WELL,
IT ENABLES SPIRITUAL
EXPERIENCE TO BE LIVED IN
AN EVER MORE BEAUTIFUL AND
ORDERLY MANNER.”**

[POPE FRANCIS ON SPIRITUAL ACCOMPANIMENT](#)

Catechesis on Discernment. 14.
Spiritual Accompaniment
Wednesday, 4 January 2023





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MORE INFO:
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