The topic/lecture I chose to write about is the problem solving lecture. During the lecture we learned about a variety of problem solving methods and processes. We also discussed several ways of critical thinking. All in all this lecture taught me a lot about different approaches to solving problems, as well as multiple ways to methods for reaching your end goal.

The article I found is called “Strategies for Critical Thinking and Problem Solving” by Dennis Hartman. The article starts out by defining critical thinking and then compares how students critically think versus how business leaders do. One interesting quote I found in the article is “Questioning assumptions is an important strategy to employ at each step of the critical thinking process. Just because solutions were effective in the past doesn't mean they'll be among the best possible solutions now.” This is something I haven’t really thought about too much, but it makes a lot of sense to implement this.

This topic really interested me because it is something you can apply to your daily life, not just informatics. The lecture really resided with me because it displayed a wide variety of different problem solving and critical thinking methods. The lecture also simplified the problem solving process to three parts, identifying the problem, thinking, and coming up with solutions.

Another great point from the lecture was to document everything while thinking critically. Documenting everything is a crucial aspect because it hopefully removes the human
error of repeating actions from with previously failed results. “There are multiple solutions to most problems, and we must use different thinking methods to discover other solutions” (Paul). Through trial and error we can constantly discover new findings.

The business article I found by Dennis Hartman brings up a lot of similar points to the lecture. Hartman talks a lot about restating the problem. This means restating the problem in a number of different ways to learn about its dimensions, related problems, and where to look for information about the problem and possible solutions. Assessing a problem using critical thinking may reveal that it's not a problem at all, or that it's impossible to solve given present circumstances, which allows a business leader to focus on reducing its harmful effects instead of searching for a complete solution.

The critical-thinking process shouldn't end once you select a solution to your problem and implement it. Instead, thorough problem solving extends the critical thinking process to include a strategic followup that allows you to evaluate the outcome. You can compare this to your predicted consequences of implementing your solution, using the information to identify weaknesses in your critical-thinking process or search for even better solutions. Putting this into effect will enable you to discover more solutions than you previously could’ve.

To conclude, this lecture proved to be the most useful and insightful for me. Drawing comparisons between the lecture and article proved to be helpful I learned the most important aspects of critical thinking from two different perspectives. I learned a lot about properly working through the decision-making process. I was also very intrigued by this lecture because we learned a lesson that has value not only in informatics, but in life itself.
Works Cited

