**Be Reasonable**

From: Becoming a Critic of Your Thinking by Dr. Linda Elder and Dr. Richard Paul
http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/becoming-a-critic-of-your-thinking/478

“Good thinkers want to change their thinking when they discover better thinking. They can be moved by reason.”

**Strategies for Becoming More Reasonable**

Say aloud, “I’m not perfect. I make mistakes. I’m often wrong.” See if you have the courage to admit this during a disagreement: “Of course, I may be wrong. You may be right.”

Practice saying in your own mind, “I may be wrong. I often am. I’m willing to change my mind when given good reasons.” Then look for opportunities to make changes in your thinking.

Ask yourself, “When was the last time I changed my mind because someone gave me better reasons for his (her) views than I had for mine?” (To what extent are you open to new ways of looking at things? To what extent can you objectively judge information that refutes what you already think?)

**Realize That You are Being Close-Minded If You**

a. are unwilling to listen to someone’s reasons  
b. are irritated by the reasons people give you  
c. become defensive during a discussion

*After you catch yourself being close-minded, analyze what was going on in your mind by completing these statements:*  

a. I realize I was being close-minded in this situation because . . .  
b. The thinking I was trying to hold onto is . . .  
c. Thinking that is potentially better is . . .  
d. This thinking is better because . . .