



SEASON 1, EPISODE 6

Critical Thinking & Analysis by Rajan Jani

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In this episode, Rajan Jani shares how TSA empowered him to develop and apply critical thinking and analysis skills throughout his journey—from middle school technical writing competitions to state leadership and a career in strategy and analytics. He discusses how TSA taught him to stretch outside his comfort zone, iterate, collaborate, and lead with data-informed confidence. Whether evaluating a resume or pulling executive-level insights, Rajan's story shows that critical thinking isn't just a skill for competition, it is a mindset for life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Middle School

1. Rajan first learned about TSA in 6th grade and joined in 7th. When did you first learn about TSA, and what encouraged you to get involved?
2. He talks about trying a competition that felt new and unfamiliar. Have you ever participated in something that pushed you out of your comfort zone? What happened?
3. Rajan shares how his team won the Dr. Arvid Van Dyke Award by working together. What's one way your chapter has collaborated this year?
4. He describes “putting on a critical thinking hat.” What do you think that means—and when might you wear yours?
5. Rajan says it's important to test and improve your work. Can you think of a time when revising or redoing something made it stronger?

High School

1. Rajan says critical thinking is about “delivering the right value at the right time.” How can this mindset help in your TSA events or leadership roles?
2. From chapter president to state vice president, Rajan helped grow his TSA community. How can critical thinking help you grow or improve something you are a part of?
3. He talks about using data and analysis to make decisions in his career. What does it mean to make a decision based on evidence instead of assumptions?
4. Rajan encourages iterating and improving your competition entries. How do you use feedback—either from others or yourself—to strengthen your work?
5. He says collaboration and teamwork are foundations of critical thinking. How can working with others help you think more deeply or creatively?

Optional Extension Activity

Think It Through. Pick a current TSA project or challenge you are facing—like a competition, recruitment strategy, or team decision. Use Rajan's “critical thinking hat” and ask:

- What do I know?
- What don't I know?
- What are the possible solutions?
- What is the best next step?

Write down your process or share it with your team—and reflect on how it helped you move forward.