

summaries



the official newsletter of sigma investment counselors

August 2017

Beyond the Lecture: Critical Thinking at College

In the June Sigma Summary, we introduced two new paraplanners; Daniel and myself. We are thrilled to be a part of such a great team. Both of us are recent college graduates (Daniel from Central Michigan University and I from University of Wisconsin-Madison) and we hope to bring new ideas to this company, ideas that we have nurtured throughout our experiences at our respective universities.

College is more than a place of learning; it is a period to determine an identity and prepare for the future. More than a rite of passage, attending a university serves to turn a person into a functioning member of society, an adult if you will. But beyond the thousands of pages we read, the dozens of homework assignments we completed, and the many tests we took, Daniel and I were cultivating a more important task: gaining the ability to think critically.

There is an old adage that school is supposed to cover reading, writing, and arithmetic. But beyond these skills is critical thinking. Critical thinking gives us the ability to work with that knowledge. Critical thinking provides a framework for learning and innovation, letting one explore cause and effect, analyze, deconstruct, and reconstruct information, and delve into new ideas.

College has taught me that there are steps that should be taken when new information is

presented and I have used these steps in my professional life here at Sigma. For example, when I come across new information, I must first examine the source of the information and determine if the information is credible. Next, I try to discern how this new information impacts me, my firm, and our clients' interests. It is refreshing to engage with my colleagues on a myriad of issues and participate in a point, counter-point discussion on the matter. The media is quick to throw out facts and figures without any regard to whether this information is important and/or relevant.

Critical thinking is what separates us from robo-advisors. Although a computer program can rebalance a portfolio, it cannot offer a personalized and individually tailored service to fit each of our clients' unique needs.

At Sigma, we strive for continued excellence. This is done via knowledge as well as cultivating the necessary critical thinking skills needed to service our clients needs and find solutions to address the many challenges investors face. As a recent college graduate, I feel fortunate to be part of a team that fosters an environment of critical thinking, teamwork and mutual respect; with the ultimate goal of providing exemplary service to its clients.

Hannah Voigt

local independent personal accessible
interactive creative local independent personal
knowledgeable thoughtful ethical experienced

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Please remember to contact Sigma Investment Counselors if there are any changes in your financial situation or investment objectives

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