



PROFESSIONAL SKEPTICISM: THE ART & SCIENCE OF BEING COLUMBO

CTR FACTOR – TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

Psychological research shows that our desires powerfully influence the way we interpret information, even when we're trying to be objective and impartial. When we are motivated to reach a particular conclusion, we usually do. Without knowing it, we tend to critically scrutinize and then discount facts that contradict the conclusions we want to reach, and we uncritically embrace evidence that supports our positions. Unaware of our skewed information processing, we erroneously conclude that our judgments are free of bias. Professional accountants might seem immune to such biases. But the corporate auditing arena is a particularly fertile ground for self-serving biases. This course seeks to apprehend these sources of unconscious biases, assess these biases in us, and discuss systematic approaches to address them on an individual and organizational basis to maintain professional skepticism

LEARNING ELEMENTS:

- **UNDERSTAND**

Help me in the heart – Five specific biases are of concern in accounting: Overconfidence, Availability, Confirmation, Anchoring, & Rush To Solve.

- **IDENTIFY**

Three structural aspects of accounting create substantial opportunities for bias to influence judgment - Ambiguity, Attachment & Approval.

- **MANAGE** - In addition, there are three aspects of human nature that drive unconscious biases in accounting - Familiarity, Discounting & Escalation.

