

Don't doubt your own ability to learn and think. Government schools teach one to sit down, shut up, and trust the experts, and thus everyone has a greater ability to think for themselves than they know. For example, if you are a computer programmer, then you apply the scientific method and critical thinking skills more often than teachers, professors, scientists, doctors, journalists, businessmen, lawyers, politicians, etc., and unlike the experts, you would have no conflict of interest! The experts should be bouncing their ideas off of you!

Surprisingly often, being the most competent to draw a particular conclusion about a given question/problem/issue only requires an above average level of certain relevant capabilities and experiences, beyond which, what is most important is honesty, conflict of interest, courage, and motivation.

Even if one lacks sufficient capability and experience to draw a particular conclusion, one should reserve judgement if one observes that those pedaling reality have a conflict of interest, and especially if they are known liars.