A critical conceptual examination of E.G. White’s admonition ‘not mere reflectors of other men’s thoughts’

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“Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator, individuality, power to think and to do. … It is the work of true education to develop this power; to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men’s thought. Instead of confining their study to that which men have said or written, let students be directed to the sources of truth, to the vast fields opened for research in nature and revelation.” - Education, p. 17
“Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily (to see) whether these things were so.” Acts 17:11 - NASB
“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”
II Timothy 2:15 KJV

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” NASB
The medieval church’s outlawing Bibles to encourage people to accept authority

“When you think of the long and gloomy history of man, you will find more hideous crimes have been committed in the name of obedience than have ever been committed in the name of rebellion.” - C.P. Snow
Elizabeth Talbot’s two words for ‘basket’
If we truly train our youth to be thinkers, they may come to question (rather than reflect) the thoughts we most wish them to believe and accept.

Young people becoming disenchanted with their local church(es) after acquiring ‘critical thinking’ skills in college/university, returning home, and asking questions.
“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4 KJV

“What is written in the Law? How does it read to you?” NASB
Wouldn’t education be improved if we didn’t burden students with diligent study of existing knowledge?

Their unstudied intuition may contain a wealth of fresh, undiscovered and unknown insight - perhaps? . . .
To think originally, one must be familiar with previous ideas; otherwise, s/he will be in danger of merely reflecting the ideas of others - even if this is done without awareness, unintentionally & inadvertently.