Critical Thinking

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Introduction

According to a website, The Foundation of critical thinking (2019) , Critical thinking is about the ability to gather, analyse and evaluate reliable information and data.
In a clip from YouTube by wireless philosophy (2014) Pynn talks about his views on what Critical thinking is. He also discusses strong and weak arguments. Pynn (2014) explains that a strong argument needs good reasons and shows this is important as it allows you to be rational.



Source- Dreamstime (2020)

1.Note taking

Note taking is an important technique within critical thinking. An article (2006) discusses the benefits of note taking. The article talks about using a three step rule before, during and after your studies. The writer advises you to look back on notes you have made and to review what you have learnt from previous lessons. This is important as it allows you to be prepared for new information. The article (2006) talks about abbreviating words, using as little full sentences as possible and listening out for key hints from your lecturers about what is important and what you need to remember. The article then talks about looking through notes afterwards and adding any additional information you may not have included previously.

Additionally, Cottrell(2019) states why note taking is essential. She explains that note taking helps improve your memory, helps you revise and be more organized in your learning, This is important as it allows you to think critically. Similarly, to the article, Cottrell (2019) also believes that using abbreviations and phrases are important strategies within note taking. This is because it saves time and allows you to still gather the information you need.

2. Time management.

According to Cottrell(2019) it is important to be aware of the time you spend studying and how well you use that time. She believes it is important to use time efficiently and effectively as this will greaten an individual's rate of success as a student. Cottrell (2019) discusses the 10 steps of effective time management and includes steps such as using your time wisely, avoiding distractions and prioritising what is most important. Cottrell (2019) explains that it is important to balance your own personal life alongside studying, she recommends planning what your days will consist of and then reviewing this to see if your plan was realistic so that you can review any amendments you may need to make.

Additionally, Moore et al.(2010) Speaks about distractions and procrastination being a common issue and discusses how to take control of it. Moore et al. (2010) states that you should be selective and set a reading time limit including breaks. This is to ensure your concentration is not compromised. The authors also advise making a weekly time-table to review your personal life so you can allocate time towards study. Cottrell (2019) and Moore et al. (2010) all discuss the importance of planning and reviewing to reach your full potential as a student.

3. Researching and referencing

Researching and referencing are important in study skills as it shows that you have gathered reliable information and you are well informed about the topic in discussion. Cottrell (2019) states that research allows you to have a deeper understanding and improves your confidence in your own work. She also discusses the importance of using and listing reliable sources such as journals, books, articles and the library. According to Cottrell (2019) referencing the sources you have used is crucial as it allows you to look back on your own work and this makes it easier for anybody else who has access to read your work. Referencing avoids plagiarism and it shows respect towards the person who created the source. Mcmillan and Weyers (2012) state that when you reference, it is beneficial to instantly write down the sources to avoid wasting time. This is important as you can also find where you got the information from at any time. They also talk about giving yourself extra time to check over and adapt any referencing formatting errors, this is an important skill for critical thinking.

Conclusion

In conclusion, study skills are an important and essential trait to have. Debbink and Meshon (2020) State that critical thinking is the ability to think for yourself and question the information you view. This is an important technique during studies as it allows you to be open minded and gives you the ability to think critically and succeed as a student.



source: Oshiro,B (2019)

Reference list

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