



Prifysgol Cymru
Y Drindod Dewi Sant
University of Wales
Trinity Saint David

Programme: BA Business Management

Module: Academic Skills

Module code: LCBB4006

Assignment nr. 1

Name: Filip Ionescu

Student ID: 2316736

Lecturer: Mohammad Rahman

Table of content

Table of content	pag.2
1. Introduction	pag.3
2. Summary of chapter two from Haber, (2020) book	pag.3
3. Importance of critical thinking	pag.6
4. Conclusion	pag.6
5. References	pag.7

1. Introduction

“Wonder is the feeling of a philosopher, and all philosophy begins in wonder” - Plato(www.goodreads.com, n.d.).

How critical is critical thinking?

Let's start with the main subject: the ability to interpret and analyze facts and information, form a judgment and decide if something is right or wrong is called *critical thinking*.

Not only curious about what is happening around them, critical thinkers train themselves to make connections between logical ideas, seeking to see the whole picture.

Building critical thinking skills imply being able to challenge your own ideas and opinions, putting them in a logical structure before making personal decisions, or decide to communicate with others.

Without even realizing it, people use critical thinking skills every day. Even a small decision, like which fruit to eat after dinner, implies using critical thinking to determine the best option in that particular matter.

2. Summary of chapter two, “Components of Critical Thinking” book

How can we become critical thinkers? What should we know ?

There is a set of elements that appear constantly enough to define them as the basic components of critical thinking.

The second chapter of Haber (2020) book focus on these components, such as structured thinking, logic language and argumentation skills, and then introduces other additional skills and attributes, like creativity and personal dispositions, considerate essential for the critical thinking.

The structured thinking, chosen by the author over the word “logic”, highlights the fact that the organising applied for structuring our thinking is more important than the

method chosen for critical thinking and so, the critical thinker's debt to logic is to achieve all those objectives:

1. Presenting what we or others are thinking;
2. Clarify the real reasons behind what we or others believe;
3. Being able to determine if the reasons for those beliefs are reasonable.

These thinking systems are usually divided in two broad categories:

The **formal logic**, which focuses on the structure of arguments, and the **informal logic**, including both structure and meaning of the arguments, in order to apply logical principles for better communication. While formal logic is built on many elements invented in the last two hundred years, providing new ways of looking at contemporary and old problems, critical-thinking tends to focus on **informal logic**.

However, the formal and informal logic use a common set of terms, like:

1. Argument — All the statements that provide proofs in support of a conclusion.
2. Premise — A declaration of evidence in an argument.
3. Conclusion — The claim in an argument that the arguer asks to be accepted.
4. Inference — Steps in logical reasoning, between the premises and the conclusion.
5. Logical Form — The basic structure of an argument, usually expressed in symbolic design.
6. Validity — The quality of a statement formed in such a way that makes impossible for the premises to be true and the conclusion to be false.
7. Soundness — The quality of a statement where the premises are true and also the logical form is valid.

These examples provide only a small part of the wide range of alternatives that support critical thinking. Whoever is interested in teaching critical thinking or becoming a critical thinker has to understand that there is no right or wrong choice regarding which method they may use. The only essential request is to organise their analysis in a logical structure.

The next tools and methods are generally used by the critical thinker to analyze arguments:

Language Skills - Humans are not machines and so a critical thinker must be able to translate every statement in normal human language.

Translation - Achieved by eliminating sophisticate wording and vague language, replacing those with normal human conversation and clear statements.

Accurate translations - Avoiding intentional error (deliberate misreading of someone else's words) and also unintentional errors.

The Foundation for Critical Thinking, major force in developing support for critical-thinking education in the United States includes the following attributes as personal characteristics a critical thinker should possess:

Intellectual humility - Acceptance of the limits of own knowledge, for potential errors in your reasoning.

Intellectual courage - The ability to sustain personal beliefs, even in the face of social pressure.

Intellectual empathy - The ability to understand the others and their positions.

Intellectual autonomy - Thinking for yourself, keeping it under reasonable control.

Intellectual integrity - The ability to apply the same intellectual standards, and admit when you are wrong.

Intellectual perseverance - Readiness for the intellectual hard labour.

Confidence in reason - Growing the belief that everyone is served by adherence to reason and find solutions to problems.

Fair-mindedness - Treating all viewpoints equally, without performing on others the pressure to agree with a single point of view.

3.Importance of Critical Thinking

Why is critical thinking important? Critical thinking makes you a mature individual, one who has analysed all the options and solutions before any decision.

The University of the People in California, states that the critical thinking skills are very important because they are universal, crucial for the economy, essential for improving language, helpful in growing creativity, self-reflection, the fundamentals of science(University of the People, 2020).

“Today’s political environment provides another example of what happens to individuals and a society that ignore the principles of critical thinking” (Haber, 2020, p.163).

Critical thinking is a mind muscle that must be trained over time. This skill can help propel your career and give you the ability to solve workplace issues, use trial and error technique, and lot more.

4.Conclusion

The desire to play Devil’s Advocate implies both sensibility and with open-mindedness. (www.psychologytoday.com,n.d.)

Sometimes the truth doesn’t suit people, and they might choose to ignore it and try to manipulate knowledge. Some people may engage in wishful thinking, believing something is true because they just wish it to be; some might engage in relative thinking. For them the reality is or just a matter of opinion.

Dispositions can’t be taught. They play a large role in determining whether or not critical thinking will be performed. It doesn’t matter how skilled one is at analysis, evaluation, and inference. If they’re not willing to think critically, that will not happen.

The critical thinker is a person having a very healthy disposition towards thinking, with strong desire for knowledge, seeking both reasons and objections with the clear purpose of being always well informed. He challenges popular beliefs and social norms by asking honest questions, even if the findings are not acceptable by all others.

The ideal critical thinker wishes to change one’s mind about an idea as a result of the desire for truth (Dwyer, 2017).

5. References

5 Barriers to Critical Thinking | Psychology Today. [online] Available at: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/thoughts-thinking/201901/5-barriers-critical-thinking>. [Accessed 30 Nov. 2023].

Dwyer, C.P. (2017). *Critical thinking: Conceptual perspectives and practical guidelines*. UK. Cambridge University Press.

Haber, Jonathan. *Critical Thinking*, MIT Press, 2020. *ProQuest Ebook Central* [online] Available at: <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/trinity/detail.action?docID=6142274>. [Accessed 26 Nov. 2023].

M. A., L. and B. A., L. (n.d.). *A Profile of Socrates, Ancient Philosopher and Sage*. [online] ThoughtCo. Available at: <https://www.thoughtco.com/profile-of-socrates-121053>. [Accessed 22 Nov. 2023].

University of the People (2020). *The Importance Of Critical Thinking*. [online] University of the People. Available at: <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/why-is-critical-thinking-important/> [Accessed 29 Nov. 2023].

Wwww.goodreads.com. (n.d.). *A quote by Plato*. [online] Available at: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/9328567-wonder-is-the-feeling-of-a-philosopher-and-all-philosophy> [Accessed 1 Dec. 2023].