

Skills and personal qualities that influence the development of critical thinking in education.



Introduction on critical thinking

This poster will identify the relevant skills and qualities that help influence the development of critical thinking in education, I will be conducting this research around peer reviewed articles, relevant books and edited volumes on education and pedagogy.

I will be looking at the strategies and concepts of a number of sources which will be discussed throughout the poster, these topics will be divided into pros and cons, the sources will involve 5-step framework of critical thinking, IDEALS and the 7 barriers to critical thinking.

So what is critical thinking? Critical thinking is the evaluation of an issue in order to form a judgement.

Why is critical thinking important? Critical thinking is important as it teaches us to question and analyse our own knowledge and information that we have gathered (University of Essex, 2017-18).

IDEALS

Pros

- I- identify-** the Problem: What is the real question we are facing?
 - D- Define-** the Context: What are the facts that frame this problem?
 - E- Enumerate-** the Choices: What are plausible options?
 - A- Analyze-** Options: What is the best course of action?
 - L- list-** Reasons Explicitly: Why is this the best course of action?
 - S- self-correct-** Look at it again ... What did we miss?
- Snyder & Snyder (2008:96)

5-step framework of critical thinking

Pros

According to Duron, et al (2006) 'thinking is a natural process' however they have identified that there is a 5-step framework which breaks down the critical thinking process in 'any teaching or training setting'.

Step 1: Determine learning objectives

- Define behaviors and attitudes pupils and students should demonstrate
- Target behaviors and attitudes in a higher way of thinking

Step 2: Teach through questioning

- Develop sensible and relevant questions
- Use questioning techniques
- Promote interactive topics of discussion

Step 3: Practice before you assess

- Select activities that enhance active learning
- Exploit all elements of active learning

Step 4: Review, refine, and improve

- Supervise all class activities
- Gather feedback from pupils and students

Step 5: Provide feedback and assessment of learning

- Deliver feedback to pupils and students
 - Fashion opportunities for self-assessment
 - Develop feedback to improve instruction
- Duron, et al. (2006: 1).

5-steps to critical thinking



7 Barriers to critical thinking

Cons

Cotterell (2005) believes that there are 7 barriers to critical thinking, it is important to look at both the pros and cons when evaluating the skills needed for critical thinking. The 7 barriers are listed below e.g.

- **Misunderstanding of what is meant by criticism-** many believe the word criticism is a negative response when in fact its identifying the positives and the negatives.
- **Over-estimating our own reasoning abilities-** countless believe their own beliefs are better than others and that their reasoning is rational however this is not the case.
- **Lack of methods, strategies or practice-** many people lack ideas in what steps to take to make their critical thinking qualities develop, this can be tackled by Duron, et al (2006) theory
- **Reluctance to critique experts-** several are afraid to critique the work of experts as they are very well respected and educated in that field, in fact it is recommended to try find explanations and question research by experts.
- **Affective reasons -** 'emotional factors' people generally let emotion play a factor in critical thinking which can cause irrational and biased outcomes.
- **Mistaking information for understanding -** believing that information is the only explanation without actually understanding what is meant.
- **Insufficient focus and attention to detail -** precision, accuracy and good attention to detail can be skills that are lacked when it comes to critical thinking.

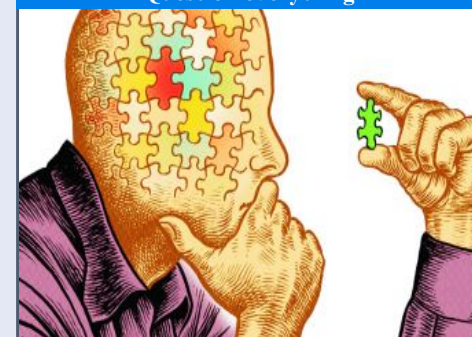
Conclusion

In conclusion my research has led me to investigate the pros and cons of critical thinking and the skills needed to succeed. I've discovered the barriers that may be faced when attempting to think critically.

These barriers include the 'IDEALS' framework, the '5-step framework to critical thinking' & the '7 barriers to critical thinking'.

Overall, I believe that if theories such as IDEALS is followed to a strict guideline, there is a conscious effort to critique work effectively. It also enables us to **QUESTION EVERYTHING**.

Question everything



Bibliography

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