

ACADEMIC STUDY SKILLS FOR STUDENTS

Critical thinking skills

WHAT DO WE MEAN BY CRITICAL THINKING?

Critical thinking, critical analysis and problem solving as key employability skills

Requires us to question



FAKE NEWS!



Profit

Political means

Crime

Viral pranks

Uncritical reporting

Pope Francis Shocks World, Endorses Donald Trump for President, Releases Statement

VATICAN CITY - News outlets around the world are reporting on the news that Pope Francis has made the unprecedented decision to endorse a US...



HOW DO WE DETERMINE FAKE NEWS OR NOT?

- Check the source
- Photos
- Check against other sources
- Quality and timeliness
- Fact checking websites

SKILLS INVOLVED IN CRITICAL THINKING

Brainstorm a list of skills and abilities that you think you may need in order to develop your studies and your professional career within education



TO BE A GOOD CRITICAL THINKER YOU NEED TO BE...

- Willing to question your own views and those of others
- Open minded to the ideas and views of others
- Able to make positive and negative judgements
- Discriminate between sources of evidence and recognise their authority and authenticity
- Self confidence in exploring and questioning literature

TO BE A GOOD CRITICAL THINKER YOU NEED TO BE...

(EALES-REYNOLDS ET AL 2013)

- Recognise strengths and weaknesses of your own thought processes
- Honest in facing own biases/prejudices
- Flexible in considering alternatives and opinions
- Willing to reconsider and revise views when required through honest reflection
- Able to re-present your thinking and argument in an improved form

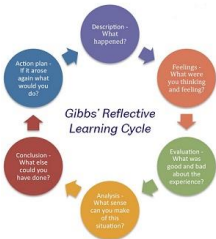
SKILLS YOU MAY NEED (BOTTOMLEY ET AL 2019)

- Problem solving including ethics
- Decision making
- Applying objective criteria to particular situations
- Reflecting on your education practice and on your study skills
- Analysing and evaluating sources of information and ideas in terms of suitability, quality and relevance
- Identifying, interpreting and assessing the position of other people
- Identifying, interpreting and assessing the arguments put forward by other people to determine if
 1. They are well thought out
 2. They are reasoned and balanced
 3. They are supported with sound, relevant evidence
 4. They lead to logical conclusions

SKILLS CONTINUED...

- Identifying, interpreting and assessing contrasting points of view
- Evaluating the strength and relevance of the evidence put forward to support different points of view
- Using academic sources to develop your own position in relation to the topics you will investigate and presenting this in a way that will convince a critical reader
- Developing arguments to support your stance which are well thought through, reasoned and balanced
- Finding sound, relevant evidence to support your arguments

THE ROLE OF REFLECTION



THE CRITICAL THINKING PROCESS

- Identifying existing knowledge and experience in relation to a particular issue
- Considering our position in relation to that issue
- Collecting authoritative evidence which may support or even contradict your position
- Critically analysing and evaluating that evidence
- Using it to develop our own knowledge and understanding

DECONSTRUCTING AN ARGUMENT

What is an argument?

An argument usually consists of one or more statements on which the argument is based and a conclusion



LOOK OUT FOR THE FOLLOWING...

Subjectivity – influenced by personal tastes, feelings or opinions

Objectivity – read write and think without bias

Ambiguity – words can mean different things according to context

Rhetoric – phrasing designed to manipulate someone into a particular point of view without providing real evidence
