

CRITICAL THINKING

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Introduction

One of the most important considerations of this is, that studying in university requires a set of academic study skills. In university students need to work more independently and therefore, it is important they develop learning strategies and skills. Study is a thinking process whereby the mind works actively. In other words, to develop in academic life, students need to think critically. Becoming a critical thinker is process that involves learning by doing, questioning, observing, making analysis, getting creative and innovative.

To develop critical thinking skills, students need while reading to think, re-think and ask questions. However, by practice critical thinking students gain knowledge and understanding useful for everyday life.

For example, being a teacher is one of the professions where using critical thinking is essential. When teachers plan children's activities, the teachers consider some of the following skills: observing children's interests in different educational activities, reading, researching, comparing, questioning as well as evaluating children's development.

Mainly, there are a range of skills and personal qualities that influence and develop critical thinking: reading, research, time management and reflecting learning.

Time management

Time management is a process that allows a person more flexibility with his or her choices, whilst increasing productivity. Time management requires critical thinking skills, questioning what is important and what is not as well as management skills, managing how much time to spend on each task. Cottrell (2008) examples about different kind of tools that can be used to organize the time – diary, schedule, charter. According to Fry (2016) the format is not important. The importance is the principles that help study time to be more productive. Therefore, time management makes the person time more manageable. This allows for more flexibility throughout the day.

Time management and motivation are connected as the time is always sufficient if the person is committed to work, family, or study. Burrough (2019) supports the statement that a person could be successful if the person knows his goals, is motivated and when the person is self-discipline. Fry (2016) describes time management as a system where a person controls its own time, and the person should devote more energy and time to tasks that are most important. Then each task is divided into small steps. Time management system helps to do more work in less time depends on a person priority.

In brief, using critical thinking is when a person organizes and reviews their time to provoke questions on how much time each activity requires.

Academic reading

Academic reading is one of the skills that connects all other skills. Academic reading is different than reading novels. In academic reading students learn what to read, how to read and where to find the information. It is important to get the main idea during reading time.

As Judge et al, (2013) explained that every part of human body needs to move and exercise, so the brain moves and develops when a human reads. Reading is a habit that develops by practice. As well provides opportunities to experience the thoughts and feelings of the author and transfer new knowledge to the reader.

Greethman (2018) agrees that when a person reads that always need to question the content of the book and make connection with everyday experience. Battro, et.al. (2008) states something similar that by reading, the brain and imagination develop when there are links with the experience of everyday life of the reader. Therefore, as more students read as much them critical thinking would develop. Reading is a skill that influences the way people think. The same book has different interpretation for different people. It is this way, because every person has their own understanding of the world as well as every person has a different background of experience. Therefore, each person is a critical thinker as the person has its own way of viewing the world.

Here are some reading strategies to take into consideration: first decide what to read and ask questions; second always take notes using own words; third connect the reading text with everyday reality.

Research

McMillan (2012) points out that to be an active learner students need constantly to develop their study skills. One of this study skills is **Research** – students to learn how to organize and collect information. It is true that in academic study students work independently between lectures. Therefore, a student needs to know the subject itself as well as students need to know to find the information.

Grreetham (2008) explains and shows the steps of how students should research: first reading about the subject of the assignment and brainstorming the main ideas, then the students are ready for research to collect more information and then at the end together with their background, experience and the new knowledge students are ready to explore their creativity and write down their own ideas. Also Fry (2016) states that students develop their research skill when they learn how to track and sort information as well as how to prepare and organize different data.

The two authors Fry (2016) and Schuyt (2019) point out those students need always to evaluate their research and present their work thoughtfully which means that they should never copy the work of others as well as to use most recent research and to therefore gather information from a wide range of books.

Reflective learning

Reflective study is a skill that has an important part in learning and self – development. To be a critical thinker in academic study, students should always evaluate how effective their study is.

Burroughs (2019) gives an example for a time management tool called Pomodoro technique to measure self-reflecting and how productive the students are. The techniques are to use a kitchen timer that has a form of tomato (tomato in Italian is pomodoro) and for 25 min to concentrate using self – discipline to study with not disruption. The idea of this 25 min is that the person can train itself, not to give in to distraction, to boost the motivation and to develop its habit to study. Moreover, Burroughs (2019) makes a statement that a person needs to find out its way of study to be productive and effective student. Some students are busy, but this does not mean that they are productive. Reflective learning provides opportunities for a person to understand their strengths and weaknesses in how they study. Cottrell (2008) pointed out that in order for a person to be more independent in their study; the person needs not only to think critically by asking questions through process of reflection – what the person can do well, what they cannot do well, how to improve itself.

According to Bedford, D. and Wilson, E. (2013) the best way the person to evaluate and self-reflect its ways of learning is the person to write down and conducting a journal. This reflecting learning journal helps to give a critical reflection on the person study development. Moreover, the person could discover new study skills or to discover some personal skills for example better academic reading, better academic writing, that the person finds difficult.

Conclusion

To sum up critical thinking skills are part of different capabilities belonging to people which current world needs. Today knowledge is not only to remember as well as to think differently and bring each person background and experience.

Moreover, critical thinking is the ability to take a piece of knowledge and analyze that piece of knowledge by its strengths and weaknesses.

Good critical thinking starts when person reads a lot and believes in its arguments. The person with critical thinking would be able to rephrase different aspects and bringing new sources of information, being creative and innovative.

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