

Academic Skills

LCBB4006

Assignment 1

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Abstract

In the consulted book, *The Study Skills* (Cottrell, 2019), the author emphasizes the importance of critical thinking and how it benefits the level of study. To build critical thinking skills, a person must develop a detective mentality. He must develop systematic approaches and make use of integrity. He should read, listen, question, and examine everything critically and logically. He should learn to apply criticality to and within his study tasks. He must make continuous progress in his critical skills and should be eager to find more and more.

Introduction

Definition

According to Paul and Scriven, University of Louisville defines Critical thinking as (louisville, 2021):

“The carefully and systematically examining method of deliberately and effectively conceiving, integrating, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or assessing knowledge obtained from or created by inspection, encounter, contemplation, logic, or interaction as a manual to faith and intervention is referred to as critical thinking.”

Importance

Critical thinking is among the most crucial attributes that every student should acquire to master. This is not restricted to problem-solving abilities in the classroom, but even in real-life scenarios. While studying critical thinking, a wide range of skill sets are learned, including any situation that necessitates scheduling, assessment, and interpretation (Raj, 2020). Some major attributes that highlight the importance of critical thinking are:

- It is a general skill for any domain

- It improves language and presentation skills
- It makes students self-reliant
- It boosts creativity
- It improves student grades

Analysis of Techniques

Different techniques useful in critical thinking, as defined in the consulted book, are analyzed in this section.

1. Detective mind

Starting to think like an investigator clarifies your opinions and makes potential decisions based on a reasonable argument. Become such an investigator, pose questions, and systematically substantiate your reasoning by making a narrative in every task (Matthews, 2021). When a person thinks critically, he looks at every aspect of the matter or fact and explores it in depth to make his facts clear.

2. Questioning critically

When you're using a critical analysis approach to present an argument, you fixate on legitimate assertions that are genuine and backed by empirical. It aids in the development of a powerful argument (Scott, 2022). This professionalism comes when a person learns to question their thoughts critically to reach a valid argument. The thoughts can be his own or maybe someone else'.

3. Critical Thinking when reading

Critical thinking while reading seems vital for educational excellence since both classroom study and task writing entails a close assessment of other people's ideas. Verify that the reasoning and facts both are appropriate and complimentary of the central argument since this will help you determine if the author's judgment is legitimate. When people pay any attention, people often think that there is a favorable connection between one item spoken and then the next. Critical thinking allows us to determine if one point necessarily follows from the next. Check for facts, instances, case studies, analytical data, polls, surveys, research papers, and incident and secondary resources. It might be circumstantial, like tales of a few human perspectives. Whether a person is reading or writing, he must learn to develop critical skills so that he could get the maximum out of reading or writing.

4. Critical thinking when writing

Much of the principles of critical thinking that you could even utilize when researching are included in critical thinking while composing. It could be more challenging, though, to critically examine one's

writing and to identify and accept his personal biases and viewpoints. The critical reading and reasoning about just literature allow you to utilize it to support your claims. You draw conclusions and analyses of the concepts, reasons, and assertions of many others provided in the writings you examine as both a critical thinker and author (Lane, 2021).

5. Critical thinking when listening

Before you hear, skim or explore a reliable text. Similar to when studying, concentrate on the point of view or reasoning. It will aid in avoiding distractions from intriguing or emotional facts and tales. Examine everything you hear carefully, even though it seems convincing or whether it is your professor speaking. Determine the facts that were utilized to prove the point. Use the same logical thinking techniques as while reading. Listening critically is just as essential as reading critically. Critical listening is the act of comprehending whatever is said as well as assessing, evaluating, and creating an attitude about what you have heard. The listener evaluates the data's merits and shortcomings, accepts or dislikes the knowledge, and analyses and synthesizes material (UOW, 2021).

6. Questioning numbers and statistics

Many individuals carry strong convictions regarding figures, particularly stats. It's simple to believe that data can support a point or that all metrics are false. Facts and figures only provide data. Its relevance and value are decided by your comprehension, how well you comprehend the topic, and also how frequently you apply it. Statistics may look compelling; however, they might not be quite as trustworthy as they seem. Be impartial and analytical while analyzing any piece of data. Critical thinking teaches us to get into depth and extract the information from the statistics as per our mental ability and prior knowledge of the particular subject.

Improvement

This book covers almost all aspects of critical thinking skill and also measure how to achieve them. A person can improve his critical writing skills by following the measures defined in this book. Alongside reading various people's valuable work, one must create a habit of rereading his own. Self-improvement is unattainable without self-reflection, which is the reason one must always be prepared to own his strengths and weaknesses. Though this may appear like a self-help cliché, nobody helps writers improve more than recovering from their failures. One tip is to make friends with people who can provide comments on the effort. If you want them to evolve, you should continue to accept constructive feedback. Your advisors will evaluate your efforts if you are undertaking critical composition for college. Do not even forget to go through every comment that they make.

Reflective analysis

I found this book very useful. The topic that mainly captured my interest was critical thinking skills. I also learned about the difference between descriptive writing and Critical writing. The author also mentioned different tips and techniques to get command of critical thinking. I have always done descriptive writing, as I was not familiar with critical writing. After reading this book and making this report, I can say that I can read, write and listen critically. Like many other people, I always thought that statistics and figures are always correct. But after reading this book, I got to know that statistics and figures can be lies and they are interpreted with your skills. I summarized all the information in a statement that when you build your critical thinking skills, everything starts making sense. Critical thinking allows a person to go into the depth of everything and finally reach the facts and augments.

Conclusion

Critical thinking seeks the best possible outcome in each case. To achieve this, information must be gathered and analyzed from as many alternative viewpoints as possible. Critical thinking involves an honest, and often disagreeable, assessment of your particular abilities, flaws, and passions, as well as its likely effects on decisions you may make. To the greatest degree possible, critical thinking demands the development and use of anticipation. Implementing choices based on critical thinking should take into consideration an evaluation of probable consequences as well as methods of preventing or at least decreasing the effect of possibly undesirable outcomes. Critical thinking entails assessing the outcomes of decisions taken and effecting change when possible.

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