

According to Ennis (1989, p.4) critical thinking is a 'reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or what to do'. It is understanding something from a neutral perspective, with no bias opinion and not relying on the belief or opinion of one individual. Individuals have to remain open minded and inquisitive, not relying on the first piece of information received. The purpose of critical thinking is to achieve the best outcome (Chatfield, 2018). Examples of skills and personal qualities that influence the development of critical thinking in education are note taking, time management and plagiarism.



(Source: Thadomal Shahani Centre For Management, 2022 Google search)

Time management

Cottrell (2019) suggests that time management enables an individual to complete work on time whilst managing stress which is beneficial to their well-being. Individuals with good time management skills are more likely to achieve higher. It is essential to have good organisation in order for an individual to develop time management skills to save time (Cottrell, 2019). When planning time management a student will need to be realistic, ensure they are maintaining a good life balance, minimise distractions, be independent, stay organised, for example consider using a diary in order to meet a deadline. Mackenzie and Nickerson (2009) demonstrate that their concept of time management involves self-discipline to achieve. They believe it is crucial to include a sufficient amount of sleep in any time management plan to maintain an individual well being and so there are no distractions on the brain to learn. Cottrell (2019) and Mackenzie and Nickerson (2009) both share alike ideas on the concept of time management and the benefits it has on the development of critical thinking.

Note taking

Note taking is an essential skill for developing critical thinking. It is a process of listening and recording relevant information. A student that takes notes is more likely to have a higher success rate in learning. (Stacy and Cain, 2015, p.1). The purpose of an individual taking notes is to assist and develop their learning. Although learning is evolving Stacy and Cain (2015, p.7) believe that note taking will always remain essential in learning. Additionally, McPherson (2018) argues that note taking could be the most common and effective strategy for learning however, only if notes are sufficient. Indeed, it is essential that the notes created are concise, organised and are paraphrased in order to be effective. Note taking can be used in a range of environments, such as lectures or work. They can also be accessed from wherever the student is. Chatfield (2018) believes systematic and strategic notes are very efficient. Students should make note of the reference so they can access it when needed in addition to the use for citations. Stacy and Calin (2015), Chatfield (2018) and McPherson (2018) are all in agreement of the positive impact of effective note-taking.

Reflective learning

Reflective learning is a process when an individual such as a student will look back at their work or experience and consider what they learnt, what went well and how to improve next time. Brockbank, McGill & Beech (2002) state that reflective learning provides an opportunity to raise awareness on any weakness an individual might have so they know how to improve next time. This also offers the opportunity to learn how to do better and achieve better. Moreover, Budworth and Hasemi (2015) imply that reflective learning is the act of a student asking themselves a series of questions on their performance in order to gain self development. They believe self reflection is the key stage in development. Likewise, Sugerman, et al. (2000) demonstrates the benefits of reflecting and setting new goals. Furthermore, the three books discussed have all shared similar ideas regarding the impact of reflective learning on the development of critical thinking. This further emphasises the importance of the skill in this area.

In conclusion, the three skills outlined in this poster; time management, note taking and reflective learning play a key role in achieving success in education. They allow you to be independent as well as provide the opportunity for further self development and progression. Indeed, these skills are imperative in the effective development and implementation of critical thinking.

Reference List

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