

Report on the importance of Critical Thinking for academic success

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Introduction:

Critical Thinking is a term used to describe a technique of looking at information and creating new judgements or interpretations from that information by questioning the information and evidence. It is an essential skill for academic study, and an essential pillar of academic thinking as a whole. It opposes descriptive writing which is focused on writing about the information provided, while Critical Thinking focuses on producing extra material from the information provided. Therefore, this report focuses on defining Critical Thinking, explaining more about what it is and discussing the importance of Critical Thinking within an academic context. The report also provides a strategy for applying Critical Thinking in an academic context. (Karzunina et al., 2017).

Definition of Critical Thinking:

There are many different ways to define Critical Thinking, two will be presented and a definition provided based on the both of them. One of them is "Critical thinking is the art of making clear, reasoned judgements based on interpreting, understanding, applying and synthesising evidence gathered from observation, reading and experimentation" (Burns and Sinfield, 2006, p.94). Another way to define Critical Thinking is "Critical thinking means putting surface appearances under close scrutiny in order to understand more fully why things are as they are." (Cottrell, S 2019, p.254). Overall an appropriate definition after looking at both of the cited sources would be: Critical Thinking is the art of looking closely at surface information and making reasoned judgements by interpreting, understanding and applying evidence to gain a deeper understanding.

Significance of Critical Thinking for academic success:

Critical Thinking is often used in an academic context in order to analyse information, evaluate ideas, and develop deeper understanding. One way in which critical thinking is important for academic success is by allowing individuals to engage actively with content rather than simply accepting it at face value. During research students can assess the credibility of sources by avoid misinformation (Cottrell, 2019, p.256). And in academic writing, Critical Thinking can be used to come to a reasoned conclusion from previously

established points by weighing evidence and comparing different perspectives. This can be done by summarising information, interpreting it, identifying strengths and weaknesses in arguments, and justifying conclusions with evidence. Overall, critical thinking enhances academic success by promoting deeper insight, independent judgment, and the ability to produce well-informed conclusions and insights. These insights and conclusions allow a person using Critical Thinking skills to expand their knowledge further and learn on a much deeper level. (Nappi, J.S, 2017)

Critical Thinking Strategy:

One strategy that can be used to apply Critical Thinking skills is the CRAAP test, it stands for Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose. By going through each of the letters, students can check the currency of a source to ensure the information is up to date, assess whether the information is relevant to their work, consider authority by identifying the author's qualifications and history, make a judgement whether the information is accurate by assessing the sources and evidence, and finally evaluate purpose to detect any bias or intent behind the information. This process helps prevent the use of inaccurate sources in academic work (Cottrell, 2019). The CRAAP test is an effective strategy for developing and applying Critical Thinking in academic contexts because it helps students evaluate the quality of information before using it. This is important as it encourages learners to question sources rather than accept them at face value.

Conclusion:

Critical Thinking can be understood as the ability to question, analyse, and interpret information in order to form reasoned judgements and deeper understanding. It is a key aspect of academic study, as it allows learners to move away from descriptive writing and instead develop their own insights from the information they engage with. It is important within an academic context because it allows to create effective pieces of academic writing by coming to reasoned conclusions through justifying points and providing evidence. It also allows to evaluate ideas and sources, helping students avoid misinformation and produce well-informed conclusions, which contributes to academic success (Zohre Ghazivakili, 2014). Furthermore, strategies such as the CRAAP test show how critical thinking can be applied in practice by guiding students to assess the currency, relevance, authority, accuracy, and purpose of information. Overall, critical thinking enables more effective learning by encouraging deeper analysis, independent judgement and meaningful academic insights.

Sources:

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