Critical Thinking

"Critical thinking is the art of making clear, reasoned judgements based on interpreting, understanding, applying and synthesizing evidence gathered from observation, reading and experimenting." Burns, T., and Sinfeild, S., (2016)

Many current educational concepts, including critical thinking are said to have originated with John Dewey. Dewy believed that critical thinking is an active, persistent and careful consideration of a belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds which support it and the furthest conclusions to which it ends.(Dewey, 1910)

Developing your critical ability is like becoming a good detective: you're looking for clues, figuring out if they're what they seem to be, how they fit together, how to interpret them, and what they all signify.(Cottrell 2019)

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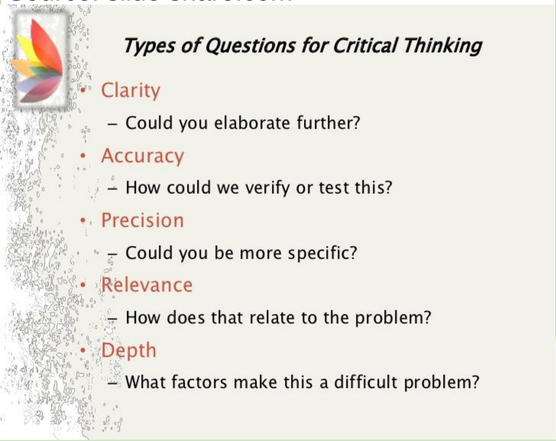

Time management

Time management allows you to take charge of your time and make minor adjustments to help you reach your objectives. (Williams and Reid,2011) When time is managed efficiently, it enables the process of decision making, whereas students, every area of your daily life will have its allowed time and production may occur. According to Cottrell (2017), when you practice effective time management, you feel surer that you are in command and can handle things, and that you don't overlook or miss out on crucial things. Cottrell and Williams both agreed on planning ahead of your academic year by preparing a term calendar, using a diary, and preparing a weekly schedule. Cottrell views time management as an effective skill that promotes critical thinking where she highlighted it enables students to be systematic, to think further ahead when it involves studies, and most importantly how to prioritize and manage distractions and procrastination. Burka and Yuen (1983) suggested that procrastination occurs because it is often a means of distancing oneself from stressful activities; the most difficult tasks are often put to one side mentally until the last possible moment. However, they argued that recognizing, understanding, and dealing with why some tasks can seem more stressful than others in reducing procrastination. (Moore 2010) By practicing time management keeps you updated with your schedule and what needs to be done so it reduces the chance of procrastination.

Researching

According to Creswell (2002), Educational research is a cyclical process that begins with the identification of a research problem or study topic. Cottrell (2019) states as one progresses through their course, their existing research abilities will be enhanced; they will be able to do more complicated searches and study larger volumes of specialized content with growing ease. Cottrell went on to give tips on how to manage information on academic study, her list consisted of :

1. Define the task, identifying precisely what you need
2. Knowing where to look
3. Using the most appropriate search methods

Wilson and Bedford (2009) state research can seem like a complicated process; however, it is very much like writing an essay. It has a beginning, middle, and end. The beginning is where planning takes place; determining what to research, the middle is where implementation occurs which is reviewing the literature, and finally, the End which is the conclusion, and this is where data is being analyzed and the project report is written. The purpose of research is to review, contribute and synthesize existing knowledge. With effective researching, you learn the skills of testing ideas, providing interpretation, and generating knowledge.

Conclusion

In closing, this poster serves as an informative tool to showcase what is critical thinking and three skills to develop critical thinking. These skills can be looked at as core skills that would aid in students' academic studies where they would be able to think and write critically. These skills pushes us to maintain and assess our studies with confidence. These skills do not only stop at a university level but even in our work life.

Note Making

Good note-making is a form of critical reflection on a point made by the author. Taking quick notes forces you to reflect on the content that is being attempted to comprehend. Good note-making should be the result of careful consideration and study. (University of Warwick,2006),Cottrell (2017) is saying that there is no one best method of making notes but with the right procedure, note-making can be effective and easy. Cottrell believed that note-making played a role in critical thinking whereas a student would have to be selective with their research material, read interactively, look for clues, and check its context. Note making allows the skill of paraphrasing to take its course and helps one to refrain from plagiarizing. To avoid plagiarism, make sure you keep detailed records of the sources you used for your research and correctly credit and quote them in your paper. If you copy and paste anything from a source, make a note of the entire reference information, including the page number, and mark the copied text in some way to indicate that these are not your words states Moore (2010). Organizing your notes is another way to keep your notes as tidy as possible, using abbreviations and numbering pages are ways to improve note-making, (Cottrell 2019). For most parts, taking notes is an important aspect of academic reading and writing. I prefer to take notes that are concise and focused. The finest notes may be transformational and engaging, catching elements of the original content and molding them into something valuable. Effective notes contain keywords, short phrases, abbreviations, and many visual elements, rather than sentences and paragraphs.

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