

Skills that influence the development of critical thinking

Introduction

Critical thinking is the ability to make a clear judgment (Burns and Seinfeld, 2016) by being objective through analysing, evaluating and synthesising the information researched. In addition, Fisher (2011) has indicated that teaching such skills needs to be taught explicitly and directly rather than indirectly, so they may be transferred to everyday life besides academically. Further more (University of Oxford, N.D) has stated that enhancing your study skills is a progressive and steady process.

Here in this poster, there are a few examples of study skills that influence the development of critical thinking

Time management

Time management is a study skill. It is a process of planning, organising and controlling how much time is spent on different activities. (The Open University,2021.) Cottrell (2013) suggests there are ten constructive points to time management. These being methodical about your time, then finding how much time is required for activities. Also simplifying how to use your time and, deciding how much time you want to apply on different activities. Subsequently prioritising what is important to you then planning and detailing your plans. Next is putting your plan into action while using your time management skills. In addition to this understanding what distracts you to prevent procrastination and finally observing your plan and adjusting when required. Using diaries, calenders and apps on mobile phones can help manage an academics time. A lack of time management can lead to procrastination. Procrastination could be caused by many different situations such as poor time management, unable to make or meet deadlines and fear of failure.

Research and reading

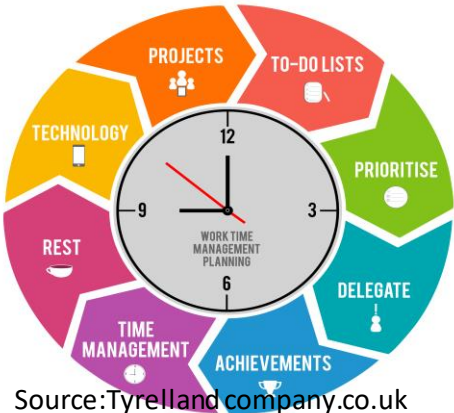
Research is a fundamental part to academic study. The need to gather information researched from different resources, these being through books, websites, articles, video clips, observing and interviews. Researching with no motivation will affect an academics ability to finish the research. By seeking motivation through setting goals, a reward or support from a confidante can result in a positive way.(Blaxter, Hughes and Tight, 2010.) Reading academically may be different to reading for pleasure. Reading academically usually means reading extracts relevant to the subject being researched. (University of Wolverhampton 2018.) Monash University (2020) have identified four types of reading techniques. These given are skimming, scanning, detailed reading and revision reading. Reading is an essential part to academic studies, without, students are unable to research sources. Merrimack college (2021) additionally says reading improves concentration, develops critical and analytical thinking skills, develops memory skills and extends a student vocabulary.

Note taking

Note taking can be seen as a difficult activity that requires an understanding and ability to select key information and write in a creative process.(Piolat, Olive and Kellogg, 2004, p. 291). There are many ways to take notes. Some of these being bullet points (linear). Spider diagram (mapping/outlining) Cornell method and colour coding. Harvard University (2021) not only has listed the methods mentioned but also has given another method, which is ‘sentence’.

Conclusion

In conclusion there are many aspects of critical thinking. Each skill influences how an academic gives a clear judgement to an argument. It takes time to develop critical thinking skills, much reading, regularly researching and often note taking. 'Critical thinking abilities are essential'. (Cottrell, 2017, p.ix)



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