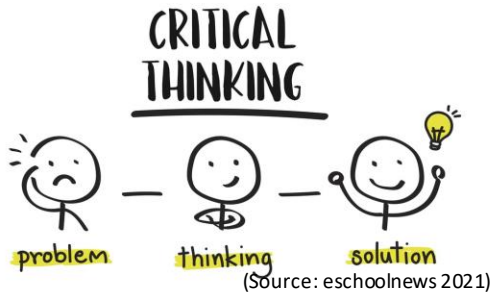


Critical Thinking

Introduction

Critical thinking is an in-depth way of thinking. Critical thinking is someone's potential to reflect and think independently also to understand a connection between different opinions. Skillsyouneed (2021)

To become a critical thinker, requires a variety of skills. Some of which are highlighted on this poster.



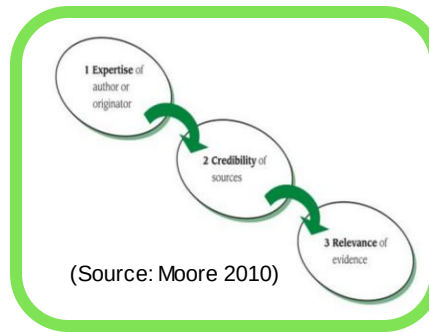
Research

Research is fundamental part of critical thinking. Researching information builds knowledge and understanding. Moore (2010) believes that research is an enthralling part of studying for a degree, mentioning that research advances your knowledge whilst exploring other viewpoints. Moore points out there are various ways of collecting information from research, these include books, articles, websites, journals to name but a few.

When using resources for research an individual must find credible information and authors. Moore (2010) illustrates three main pointers to remember when researching information.

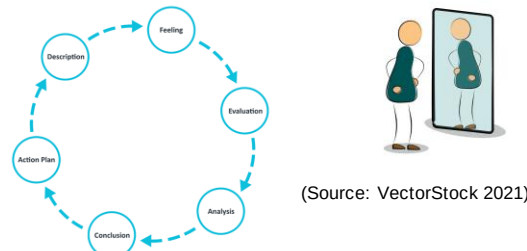
UniSydneyLibrary (2020) supports Moore's illustration referring to a "Hierarchy of Trustworthiness" starting at the top with library search facilities, reputable websites, academic journals. Furthermore, asking the individual to think about the relevance of the information we have discovered.

Researching information. is a skill that an individual will use nearly every day in life. University of the People (2021)



Reflection

Reflective practice is an important skill to support critical thinking. According to Gibbs (1988) 'Reflective Cycle' there are six reflective stages:-



Gibbs (1988) states these stages help reflect, evaluate the experience good or bad, consider What happened?, Why it happened? and how we can improve practice in the future.

Differing from Gibbs' reflection, where reflection is completed following an event, Schon (1991) believes that reflection is a two- part process. . Reflection during your practice and following practice. Reflecting in the moment allows individuals to think on their feet and consider what to do next. Schon also believes that reflecting after practice or event encourages the individual to analyse with no set timescale, reflecting what could have been done differently, putting a plan in motion to enhance practice.

In support of both Gibbs and Schon, Cottrell (2019) also suggests keeping a reflective journal to assist an individual to reflect on their own practice to include noting their emotions and ideas enabling them to create an action plan to enhance and progress.

Reflecting on events and or practice bridges the gap between theory and practice, enabling a practitioner to explore theory, apply it to practice thus improving both their skill set and offering a higher sense of well-being. Skillsyouneed (2021)

Collaboration

Whilst studying for a degree, collaborative study will be required by a student this is working in groups. Collaborative working can encourage the student to listen to different perspectives, share others knowledge whilst transmitting constructive criticism. (Cottrell, 2013).

According to (Moore, 2010) collaborative learning benefits creative thinking. Working in groups helps to manage time, keep on target, whilst building motivation.

Tuckman (1965) states the difficulties experienced with collaborative learning. Unequal participation, conflict of personalities, different learning speeds and abilities. All can cause frustration and stress.

Reflecting on all this information (InnerDrive, 2019) feels that collaborative learning is advantageous to a student's studies when managed correctly. Research suggests, collaborative learning in moderation is the key to successful results.



(Source: PNGEgg no date)

Conclusion

Research, Collaborative Learning and Reflection are only a handful of all skills that can help mold a student into a critical thinker.

**Are you a
Critical Thinker?**

References

- Cottrell, Stella. *The Study Skills Handbook*, Macmillan Education UK, 2019. *ProQuest Ebook Central*, <http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/trinity/detail.action?docID=6234945>. (pg.101) Accessed: 14 September 2021)
- Cottrell, S 2013 *The Study Skills Handbook* v4 p.g 202)
- InnerDrive, (2019) Available at <https://blog.innerdrive.co.uk/advantages-disadvantages-group-work> Accessed: 16 September 2021)
- Learning Performance (2019) *Gibbs Reflective Cycle and Learning*. Available at: <https://learningperformance.com/gibbs-reflective-cycle-and-learning/> Accessed: (11 September 2021)
- Moore, S (2010), *The Ultimate Study Skills Handbook* p.g.154
- Skillsyouneed.com (2021) *Critical Thinking*. Available at <https://www.skillsyouneed.com/learn/critical-thinking.html> Accessed: 14 September 2021)
- Solent Online Learning (no date) *How to think reflectively*. Available at <https://learn.solent.ac.uk/mod/book/view.php?id=2732&chapterid=1113> Accessed: (13 September 2021)
- Source: (University of Edinbrough, 2020) [image] Available at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/reflection/reflectors-toolkit/reflecting-on-experience/gibbs-reflective-cycle> Accessed: 11 September 2021)
- Source: Eschoolnews, 2021) [Image] Available at <https://www.eschoolnews.com/files/2017/06/criticalthinking2-600x360.jpg> Accessed 14 September 2021
- Source: VectorStock 2021) [Image] Available at <https://www.vectorstock.com/royalty-free-vector/man-see-his-reflection-in-the-mirror-vector-9533017> Accessed 16 September 2021
- Source: UniSydneyLibrary 2020) [Video] *Discover: Research Skills 2020* Available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTkNw3mryc> Accessed: 14 September 2021)
- Source: PNG Egg No Date) [Image] Available at <https://www.pngegg.com/en/search?q=Working+group> Accessed: 18 September 2021)
- (Source: Moore 2010, *The Ultimate Study Skills Handbook* [Image] p.g 60,61
- University of Edinbrough 2020) *Gibbs' Reflective Cycle*. Available at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/reflection/reflectors-toolkit/reflecting-on-experience/gibbs-reflective-cycle> Accessed: 11 September 2021)
- University of the People (2021) *The Best Research Skills for Success*. Available at <https://www.uopeople.edu/blog/the-best-research-skills-for-success/> Accessed: 14 September 2021)