

Critical Thinking

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(Source: McCann, no date, cited in Kronenburg, 2019, p.1)

Introduction

What is critical thinking? Critical thinking allows a person to analyse information that is being presented to them by keeping an open mind that there could be other possibilities or theories. Stella Cottrell states that;

‘Critical thinking gives you the tools to use scepticism and doubt constructively so that you can analyse what is before you. It helps you to make better and more informed decisions about whether something is likely to be true, effective or productive’

Cottrell, 2017, p.2

Time Management

The practice of using the time that you have available in a useful and effective way, especially in your work (Cambridge Dictionary).

Time management for some people can be hard to maintain due to their busy home and work life. Prioritising goals and tasks is crucial to effective time management. Looking at the whole of one's time and using time as a choice can make ‘time highly elastic’ (Soroas, 2016) meaning preplanning your week/day/month using a diary highlights what tasks are a priority. In contrast (Levin, 2007) suggests that you can not control time as time continues regardless however, you can organise yourself in order to reach your goals. When you accurately plan there is a higher chance of successfully achieving the goals that were set.

“Critical thinking is thinking about your thinking while you’re thinking in order to make your thinking better.” — Richard W. Paul

(Source; Pinterest, google search, no date)

Teamwork

Teamwork is the ability to work efficiently with a group of people, contributing ideas to reach a common goal. By working together they value and respect team members opinions, views and contributions. A collective knowledge makes an organised, cohesive and efficient team where everyone can support each other and ultimately attain success. Teamwork is seen as a tool that can be used anywhere “No matter the industry, effective teamwork is critical for success. And teamwork starts with the team players - individuals working together to accomplish agreed-upon goals and objectives” (Parker, 2008, p. 15).



(Source; University of Northampton, 2019)

Who	... benefits from this? ... is this harmful to? ... makes decisions about this? ... is most directly affected?	... have you also heard discuss this? ... would be the best person to consult? ... will be the key people in this? ... deserves recognition for this?
What	... are the strengths/weaknesses? ... is another perspective? ... is another alternative? ... would be a counter-argument?	... is the best/worst case scenario? ... is most/least important? ... can we do to make a positive change? ... is getting in the way of our action?
Where	... would we see this in the real world? ... are there similar concepts/situations? ... is there the most need for this? ... in the world would this be a problem?	... can we get more information? ... do we go for help with this? ... will this idea take us? ... are the areas for improvement?
When	... is this acceptable/unacceptable? ... would this benefit our society? ... would this cause a problem? ... is the best time to take action?	... will we know we've succeeded? ... has this played a part in our history? ... can we expect this to change? ... should we ask for help with this?
Why	... is this a problem/challenge? ... is it relevant to us/others? ... is this the best/worst scenario? ... are people influenced by this?	... should people know about this? ... does this harm us/others? ... have we allowed this to happen? ... is there a need for this today?
How	... is this similar to _____? ... does this disrupt things? ... do we know the truth about this? ... will we approach this safely?	... does this benefit us/others? ... do we see this in the future? ... can we change this for our good?

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Problem solving

Everyone has come across problems in their lives whether academically, work or home life, big or small but its how we deal with those problems. Some people are natural problem solvers while others are more cautious and take longer to reach a solution. On the website Skills you need they outline six steps to successfully solve a problem.

1. Problem identification.
2. Structure the problem.
3. Looking for possible solutions.
4. Making a decision.
5. Implementation.
6. Monitoring/seeking feedback.

Skillsyouneed.com, No date

The more problems we solve the more self- confidence we gain and the willingness to tackle and overcome new difficulties.

Conclusion

To conclude, time management, teamwork and problem solving are all important attributes in critical thinking and can be used in all aspects of your life. When critical thinking is put into practice it helps develops our understanding of other points of views as well as using it to query and ‘pick apart’ those views to improve our knowledge.

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