

Critical Thinking

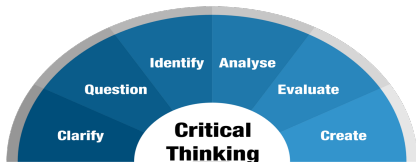
What is Critical Thinking?

Critical Thinking is influenced by many skills for example goal setting, note taking, research and time management.

A recent university study shows Critical Thinking is based upon

- Weighing up the arguments for or against something.
- Standing back from the information given and examining it in detail from all angles.
- Comparing the points of view of different writers on the topic.
- Being able to argue why one set of opinions is preferable to another.

This has been adapted by Cottrell (2008) in her study skills handbook. As Glaser (1941) explains Critical thinking calls for persistent effort to examine any belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of evidence that supports it and further conclusions to which it tends.



Source Monash University
2022
Google search

Goal Setting

Let us begin by considering the importance of teaching students how to deal with practical problems In everyday life such as goal setting. Goal setting is very important as many researchers believe that allowing students to set their own goals benefits many people. By dividing the process into 5 stages, experiments have shown significant results.

- **Namely**
- **Goal setting**
- **Flipped learning**
- **Task sharing**
- **Self evaluation**

Goals need to be specific and challenging in order for the students to creates commitments and acceptance. Deadlines improve the effectiveness of goals. Locke & Latham (2002) Every workplace has goals set in place. Latham (2003) states that students who are provided with specific but difficult goals performs better than those who are not given specific or no goals at all. But in order to accomplish students need to be able to accept their goals but most important how to receive feedback related to their performance.

Note taking and Research

Note taking is known a crucial factor to practicing critical thinking effectively. Ernis (1987) identified a range of dispositions and abilities associated with critical thinking. These focused on

- **The ability to reflect skeptically**
- **The ability to think in a researched way**

It is believed having an open mind is vital when researching as there are many different opinions/books/internet information out there. The depth and time people spend on note take will be reflected on their final pieces of work. As Godfrey (2013) states making notes helps a person to use their own words and paraphrase in essays.

According to Cottrell (2017) critical thinkers can often detect a poor argument without a good knowledge of the subject. Cottrell (2017) also states finding out more about a subject helps you to make more informed judgement about whether relevant facts, alternative explanations and options have been covered sufficiently.

Time Management

One of the most important considerations of this study is time management. Time management is used to carry out assignment or tasks. How people decide to spend their time will be reflected on the quality of work. It is important to use the time effectively in order to get the best outcome. Many will use their time differently but the important message is for it to be carried out effectively. Barnes (1994) suggests using diaries and journals will benefit the individual but states why it's important being realistic with the information in order to succeed as not all notes taken will be used. How ever Crustingner (1994) states people should act on their theory by setting goals and prioritize the most important tasks first in order not to get distracted. Secondly to remember to tick of tasks achieved to see the progress.



Source corporate finance institute
2022
Google

Conclusion

To conclude Cottrell (2017) suggests critical thinking gives you the tools to use skepticism and doubt constructively so that you can analyze what is before you. It helps you make a more informed decisions in your academic studies, and there for beneficial. Skills in reasoning can be developed through a better understanding of what critical thinking entails and by practice.

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