Critical Thinking
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Module ECGE4005P/C

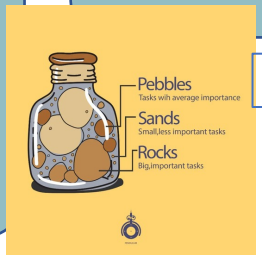
What is Critical Thinking?

"Critical thinking is about using your ability to reason, It is about being active in your learning and questioning ideas, arguments and findings".(University of Sussex, 2022)

When becoming a university student it important to be able to develop new academic skills to enable success. (Cottrell, 2017, p.4) feels that nobody is a beginner when using critical thinking strategies. The fundamental skills needed are utilised in a variety of daily tasks. Students studying any course are critical thinkers.

Time Management

Why is time management crucial for academic success? You can meet deadlines by managing your time. "It is not that we have a short space of time, but that we waste much of it"(Rigby, 2022.)You will be able to focus on the task at hand and avoid getting sidetracked by everyday distractions. Having a plan to prioritise necessary tasks is vital. It will help you stay on course and alert you to what comes next. Personal and social activities may have to come as a second preference. (Rigby 2022) tests the Pickle Jar Theory The big rocks are the important tasks, could be an essay, where the objects becoming smaller are less important, like sending a text. The large things will never fit together completely if they are not put into the jar first. The sand can then be poured into the gaps and you should have ample time if the rocks are placed first, followed by the pebbles. It's a good idea to schedule your time by using a timetable or journal when you're studying. Arrange tasks and highlight them, according to their order of importance. Maintaining your organisation and staying on top of your to-do list will also be helpful. They can be used to note upcoming work deadlines, exam dates, or personal occasions. According to Cottrell (2019) It is advised to keep a journal to record your thoughts on your education and track your progress.

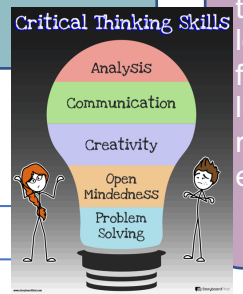


(Source. Linked in. 2019)

Paraphrasing and Referencing

These skills many students find difficult and new when they are beginning their studies. Paraphrasing can be defined as using several phrases to convey the meaning of anything spoken or written. It is expected that a student should become more sceptical of theories and concepts as their studies progress. One must demonstrate understanding of the importance of reading other people's work in order to succeed in their studies. Referencing shows that researching and reading of the work of others has been used to enhance assignments. By acknowledging other writers in assignments, it can show value and appreciation for the contributions that authors and commentators have made. (Neville, 2016, pg 7). A common referencing method is the Harvard system. In addition to mentioning other pieces of writing in your own using the author's last name and the year of publication, an assignment would also include a referencing list. References in this section must be listed alphabetically by author's surname according to the university of Wales Trinity Saint David. Pears and Shields (2022) agree that including a list of references at the conclusion of your work that details exactly where you found each piece of literature will make it easier for readers to locate them.

(Source. Storyboard that 2022)



Note Taking

Another academic skill that may be gained with practice is taking notes. Often, lecturers will stand in front of you and deliver a lecture in which they will impart a wealth of fresh knowledge. To recall everything would be quite challenging. According to Seid and Teklay (2018) taking notes is a useful strategy, to increase a student's capacity to learn. When you put anything in writing, it frequently sticks in your memory. Understanding lecture points is valuable to students. Taking notes is a helpful revising technique when necessary.
A fundamental tip for note taking is that you can't write everything down. Use abbreviations when listening to a lecture, it helps to catch up when words are written in shorthand. Within a written text, underline and highlight key words and phrases to draw attention to those that the lecturer may put emphasis on. Ask questions when in doubt, or if something does not make sense. (Kennedy,R) suggests using the Cornell System of note taking. This uses the 5 R's. These are record, reduce, recite, reflect and review. An academic student's performance can be significantly improved through using proven note-taking strategies.

To Conclude

There are many critical thinking skills that students can use to enhance their learning experiences in university. According to Cottrell (2019) If students can build tactics that are appropriate to their particular ways of thinking and learning, they will do effectively and more effortlessly. This frequently pleasantly surprises students. The approaches, like the ones on this poster, take into account a variety of requirements, including goals, goals-related demands, enjoyment of your course, and spare time.

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