Critical Thinking

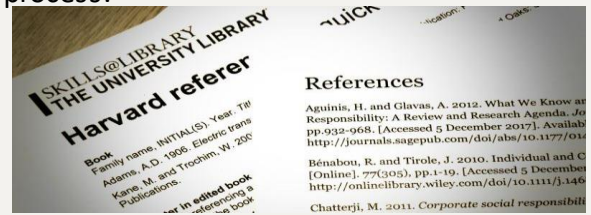
It is having the right tools to be able to absorb information, question, analyse and evaluate arguments affectively, give reasons – good reasons and be able to discuss how this outcome was reached, it is almost as if a bigger picture is being built from another person's view with supporting evidence as to how the conclusion was reached, the evidence will support and strengthen the outcome , hopefully reaching an ampliative argument. Cottrell, S. (2013).

Source dreamstime.com,

As Cottrell (2017, p1) explains critical thinking is a cognitive skill that helps think critically, analytical and evaluative ways, it can help with critical approaches and reasons for arguments.

Referencing and Research

A key requirement when studying is to be able to research and reference other people's work (peer-reviewed) by doing this it shows use of wider reading and helps to build on understanding and gives lots of information to inform the decisions and reasons for using books, journals and papers to tie in with work completed. This skill is required throughout academic writing. Pears and Sheilds (2019, p28) suggest using referencing strengthens arguments based on what has been read and the information taken from it to form a conclusion. As Pears and Shields (2019, p28) explain when referencing this is evidence to tutors the reading and research taken on to complete work set, using valid resources and work that help reach an ampliative argument using own ideas and opinions. Pears and Shields (2019, p31) also mention referencing and research avoids plagiarism, this demonstrates good academic study skills. Moore, s (2010, p44) states reading is useful as it gives opportunity to go back to the text to gather the information needed, this allows the most relevant text to be identified and used as part of the research process.



Source Greatassignmenthelp.com

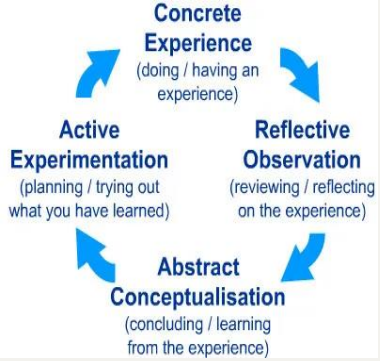
Time Management

Allocating time for study, reading, research and everyday life demonstrates the use of time management, when using time management, it allows for time to be used efficiently. Everybody has commitments outside of study meaning things are constantly being juggled, different aspects of life such as home, work, family and friends aswell as the demands of university study. (Cottrell, 2013, p123). Thereby time management is important for study, using this skill ensures time is being used efficiently, less distraction and in turn will keep motivation up while studying. Making choices and prioritising time sets a target or goal that is achievable and gives clear vision. (Forster, 2014, p8).

Source maxwellinvestmentsgroup.com

Reflection

Kolb suggests when using the experiential learning cycle the four stages of the cycle need to be used to achieve success (Kolb, 1984,p38). Reflection is a tool that helps to continue learning at all stages of study, it gives students the opportunities to reflect on experiences throughout learning, assessing what is needed to be done differently for future purposes, it allows reflection on feelings and what was felt during researching and writing work. By using reflective practice, it enables positive outcomes in the future and strengthens practitioners' knowledge and progress (Davis, 2012, pp9-12)



Source Simplypsychology.org

Conclusion

Bellis (2019) suggests critical thinking leads to the best learning outcomes in academic study, when using this tool opinions, ideas and questions are formed. Critical thinking helps improve skills, undoing things and looking at reasons why, ask questions, it helps improve views and ideas. 'What is critical thinking? A Definition' (Meegan, 2012).

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