

Introduction

This poster aims to analyse the influence of reading, note taking, and reflection and how they influence the development of critical thinking. Critical thinking originates from the theories of philosopher John Dewey. He describes it as “active, persistent and careful consideration of a belief or supposed form of knowledge in the light of the grounds which supports it and the further conclusions to which it tends” (Dewey, 1909). Four key components of critical thinking include interpreting which is understanding and accurately communicating meanings of different kinds of data such as graphs and images. Analysing, which is the examining of ideas, the detection and detailed examination in order to understand and evaluate its nature or meaning (Facione, 1990). Evaluating, and self regulation (reflecting on own thinking) when self regulating, you apply critical thinking processes to your own thoughts and communications- these require the same standards that apply to others. To be clear and reliable, imaginative, consider own strengths and weaknesses and to fairly review facing points of views.

Reading

Whilst studying, reading is a crucial part of critical thinking. People learn to think critically and evaluate the resources they are reading such as articles, books, E-books, journals, and legislations. Cottrell (2019) describes developing one's critical ability as a 'detective-like mind' and explains that by questioning how things appear and how they are interpreted, they are developing their critical thinking. Critical reading involves skills such as questioning, evaluating, predicting, comparing decision-making, and recognising the meaning of the text to understand the conclusion. As stated by Shihab (2011) the reader uses their interactive process and critical thinking skills whilst reading. Shihab explains that people read and understand sentences using previously stored knowledge, experiences and individual interpretations of text making each readers experience slightly unique.

Skills and Qualities that Influence the Development of Critical Thinking in Education.

Reflection

Reflecting on ones own work is important. It helps to develop a better understanding and will help with progression in that area of work. Cottrell (2017) explains the characteristics to include when reflecting. Some characteristics to include are looking at things from different points of views, reflecting on one's own experiences and to further one's own understanding. Reflecting on thigs such as lectures or day to day work will increase and develop one's knowledge, one is able to reflect on experiences that may now seem far more significant when the context is better understood. When reflecting, the bigger picture from an experience can be seen to help one understand this from a wider point of view giving someone more opinions and knowledge of the situation.

Note taking

Note taking develops critical thinking as it is useful to keep a record of the lectures and resources you have read. They help to remember important information as one can be selective on what they take notes of and decide what information is relevant to them. Cottrell (2017) points out that by making notes in one's own writing and style such as spider diagrams and drawings, they use their motor memory which helps them remember their notes. Permana, D., Suadiyanto, T. and Harmawati, S.(2019) conclude that Note taking positively encourages the development of critical thinking where they experimented in two classes of 26 students who were taking a multiple-choice test. It was claimed that the class able to take notes before the test had better results than the class unable to take notes.

Conclusion

Reading allows one to interpret different forms of media and develop critical thinking skills by evaluating the text.

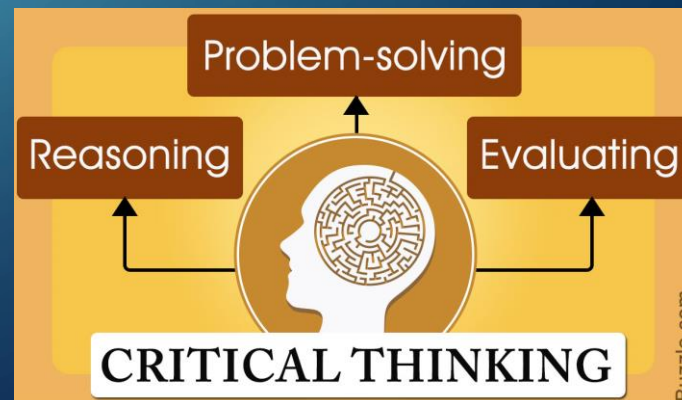
Reflection gives people a better understanding and allows them to place the findings into the bigger picture.

Note taking helps you remember information and enables you to build up knowledge on the subject.

These skills are all essential in the development of critical thinking in education.



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- Image one: Available at: <https://blog.futurefocusedlearning.net/best-critical-thinking-definitions>
- Image two: available at: <https://clipartmag.com/cartoon-picture-of-a-brain>