

What is Critical Thinking?

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Introduction:

What is critical thinking?

Critical thinking is a cognitive activity, associated with using the mind, according to Cottrell (2011).

Critical thinking is called a skill to enlist in independent thinking.

A person with critical thinking expertise can think in certain ways and can come to the best possible conclusion.

The aim of my poster is to outline three skills of critical thinking. These are analysis, note taking and reflection.

Albert Einstein says that "Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."

Analysis

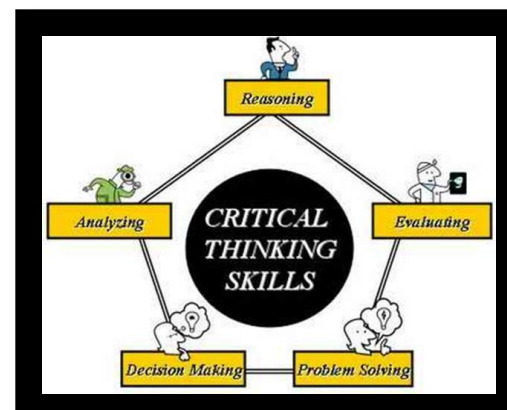
What is analysis?

Analysis is what you research and observe to establish complicated ideas. According to Cottrell (2011) 'Description is sometimes confused with critical analysis as both can investigate an issue in detail'.

How to improve your analysis skills?

Taking on new skills and experiences, such as reading a book that you never do or a new series of books, learn a new language or learn how to draw.

Critical analysis can help practitioners with observations on children, such as choosing the outcome that the child has accomplished and then write a little about that.



(Source: 4Tests.com 2015)

Note taking

Why take notes?

Note taking is a way of remembering or recording important information. Taking notes is an easy way of keeping notes tidy and remembering the most important information first. There is no right or wrong to taking notes, but they can help improve and prepare for essays, more focused and access own progress as you study. Godfrey (2013) suggest that when people make notes, they help them to use their own words.

According to the website 'skills you need' (2011-2021), they state that note taking is powerful source of communication. Note taking is a useful way of writing down key points from the person that is talking.

As reported by Cottrell (2011) note taking is a good idea. If the person makes the correct notes, they have got the information for future points. Also, as Cottrell (2011) states that 'many people find it easier to recall information that is written in their own handwriting'.

Reflection

What is Critical Reflection?

Critical reflection help us to consider what could be improved and what is good. Cottrell (2013) says that reflection is, 'be able to sit with your experience, analyse and evaluate your own performance, and draw lessons from it'.

Critical reflection can be emotionally challenging for students, and some will want to bypass this, which we accept. Maclean (2016) believes that the Weather Model provides a simple way of reflecting on an event.

The four stages on the Weather Model is:

- 1) Sunshine
- 2) Rain
- 3) Lightening
- 4) Fog

Critical reflection doesn't need to be something you have looked and done wrong or the other people. Critical reflection can be used by helping practitioners with children's learning and development and it can better practitioners weekly planning.

Conclusion

To conclude my poster to an end my three skills, note taking, reflection and analysis are critical to critical thinking, as Cottrell (2011) stated at the start of my poster, as it uses the mind.

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