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***What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is a widely accepted educational goal. careful thinking directed to a goal. Conceptions differ with respect to the scope of such thinking, the type of goal, the criteria and norms for thinking carefully, and the thinking components on which they focus .

Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally about what to do or what to believe. It includes the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking.

Critical thinking is a skill that allows one to make logical and informed decisions to the best of one's ability. For example, a child who has not yet developed such skills might believe the Tooth Fairy left money under their pillow based on stories their parents told them. A critical thinker, however, can quickly conclude that the existence of such a thing is probably unlikely—even if there are a few bucks under their pillow.

Critical thinking is just **deliberately and systematically processing information** so that one can **make better decisions and generally understand things better.**

The Importance of Critical Thinking

1.) **Critical thinking is a domain-general thinking skill.** The ability to think clearly and rationally is important whatever we choose to do. If you work in education, research, finance, management or the legal profession, then critical thinking is obviously important. But critical thinking skills are not restricted to a particular subject area. Being able to think well and solve problems systematically is an asset for any career.

2.) **Critical thinking is very important in the new knowledge economy.** The global knowledge economy is driven by information and technology. One has to be able to deal with changes quickly and effectively. The new economy places increasing demands on flexible intellectual skills, and the ability



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to analyse information and integrate diverse sources of knowledge in solving problems. Good critical thinking promotes such thinking skills, and is very important in the fast-changing workplace.

3.) Critical thinking enhances language and presentation skills. Thinking clearly and systematically can improve the way we express our ideas. In learning how to analyse the logical structure of texts, critical thinking also improves comprehension abilities.

4.) Critical thinking promotes creativity. To come up with a creative solution to a problem involves not just having new ideas. It must also be the case that the new ideas being generated are useful and relevant to the task at hand. Critical thinking plays a crucial role in evaluating new ideas, selecting the best ones and modifying them if necessary.

5.) Critical thinking is crucial for self-reflection. In order to live a meaningful life and to structure our lives accordingly, we need to justify and reflect on our values and decisions. Critical thinking provides the tools for this process of self-evaluation.

6.) Good critical thinking is the foundation of science and democracy. Science requires the critical use of reason in experimentation and theory confirmation.

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Ways of Improving the skill of Critical Thinking

Here are several ways to improve critical thinking skills in the workplace to become a stronger employee.

1. Become more self-aware.
2. Understand your mental process.
3. Develop foresight.
4. Practice active listening.
5. Ask questions.
6. Evaluate existing evidence.



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Benefits Of Critical Thinking

We know that critical thinking is good for society as a whole, but what are some benefits of critical thinking on an individual level? Why is critical thinking important for us?

1. Key For Career Success

Critical thinking is crucial for many career paths. Not just for scientists, but lawyers, doctors, reporters, engineers, accountants, and analysts all have to use critical thinking in their positions.

In fact, according to the World Economic Forum, critical thinking is one of the most desirable skills to have in the workforce, as it helps analyze information, think outside the box, solve problems with innovative solutions, and plan systematically.

2. Better Decision Making

Critical thinkers make the best choices. Critical thinking helps us deal with everyday problems as they come our way, and very often this thought process is even done subconsciously. It helps us think independently and trust our gut feeling.

3. Form Well-Informed Opinions

There is no lack of information coming at us from all angles. And that's exactly why we need to use our critical thinking skills and decide for ourselves what to believe. Critical thinking allows us to ensure that our opinions are based on the facts, and help us sort through all that extra noise.

4. Better Citizens

One of the most inspiring critical thinking quotes is by former US president Thomas Jefferson: "An educated citizenry is a vital requisite for our survival as a free people."



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What Jefferson is stressing to us here is that critical thinkers make better citizens, as they are able to see the entire picture without getting sucked into biases and propaganda.

5. Improves Relationships

Being a critical thinker can allow you to better understand the perspective of others, and can help you become more open-minded towards different views.