

ENHANCING CRITICAL THINKING IN WRITING

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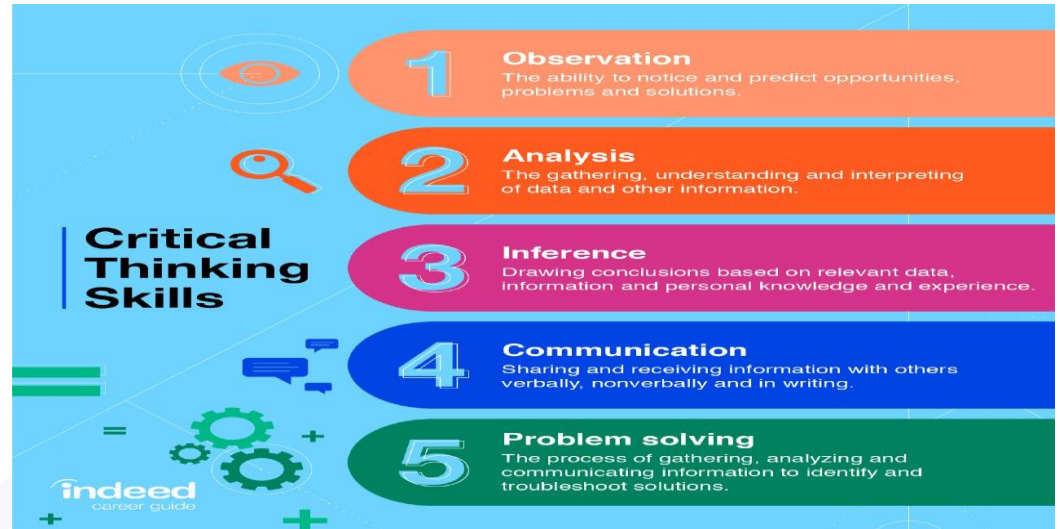
Abstract:

This thesis reports what is critical thinking. Its teaching methods from child to student, and how improve it. The role of critical thinking in society and education. The study found that all treatments showed some potential for fostering the development of critical thinking skills. This thesis also reflects efforts to develop critical thinking in education.

Keywords: critical thinking, reasoning logically, academic writing, self-expression, cognitive process, analyze.

In the current era of advancing science, information and technology, students have to unprecedented amounts of information through websites and newspapers. In this situation they need critically think.

Critical thinking is the process of identifying and solving problems by gathering information ,analyzing and evaluating evidence ,discovering patterns and reasoning logically .Critical thinking in writing means asking the right questions and questioning the old, no-longer obvious answers [3]. If we use critical thinking in writing, it is well evaluated and included in academic writing. Also, critical thinking helps us to express well and clearly our ideas by our ways in writing. Critical thinking plays a great important role not only in all areas but in world-life. Even we cannot imagine our life without it. On account of it, we can solve all issues and approach correctly to all branches. The person who aware of critical thinking or thinking independently can write a best academic writing .



How to improve critical thinking

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

The development of critical thinking skills through formal education is mainly done in two ways. The first way is through stand-alone critical thinking subjects where critical thinking is taught as a course on its own. The second way is by integrating the skills across the curriculum. One of the courses where the teaching of critical thinking is prevalent is writing. This is because writing is a medium for self-expression and critical analysis (Lavelle, Smith, & O’Ryan, 2002). Gammil (2006) also argues that writing exercises encourage students to develop metacognitive and reasoning skills, and the ability to analyse and synthesise information. “No other exercises in the classroom generate higher thinking skills than does writing” (Gammil, 2006, p. 760). The evident relationship between writing and critical thinking is expressed by Boyer (1983) who wrote that “clear writing leads to clear thinking. Clear thinking is the basis of clear writing. Perhaps more than any other form of communication, writing holds us responsible for our words and ultimately makes us more thoughtful human beings” (p. 90). Ryder (1994)

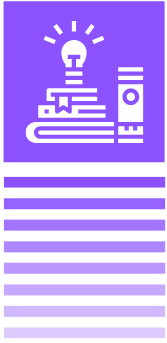


adds that “writing is a cognitive process involving the shaping of thought” (p. 215).

Academic writing provides a context for developing critical thinking skills especially as it involves the expression of certain ideas to be shared with a particular audience. Communication between the writer and the reader via the text is indeed a social act. The writer shares ideas and views with an audience and the feedback obtained from the audience benefits the writer’s development of critical thinking.

As for the development of critical thinking in writing in our country, we have as many opportunities as other countries. First, we need to have knowledge of foreign education systems in order for our teachers to know what methods to use to teach students critical thinking. Then we need to teach critical thinking from the moment a child begins to speak and be able to direct it correctly. Because young children have a lot of questions about the whole being. If we answer all of their questions fully and clearly, we will be contributing to the development of their critical thinking. It is also necessary to make effective use of debating lessons, poems, riddles, which develop critical thinking in kindergarten children. In the primary school, a special science should be introduced to further improve critical thinking. Any child with a mind base can master this science perfectly, and it can be the most fun lesson. In high school, students should be taught a subject that develops critical thinking in writing and in the final year of school, students should take an exam in a subject that develops critical thinking in writing. Students who show high results in the exam should be awarded with special certificates and prizes. Academic writing Olympiads should be organized. We, like the Islamic University of Malaysia (LE 4000) should introduce an English language course for academic writing and make it compulsory for all students. The course objectives match the requirements of the research: the development of critical thinking. The outcomes of this research therefore, could benefit such classes. Not only might the rubric be used to develop students’ critical thinking, but it could also provide a means for assessing critical thinking in the course.

This study has shown that the need to gradually develop critical thinking from a young age, to introduce it as a special science, and to organize academic writing sciences and Olympiads. I realized that it is important for teachers to



have enough knowledge and skills to develop students' critical thinking skills in writing. Any state whose people can think perfectly critically can easily find its way even in the most difficult situations, and the country will develop.

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