

TIPS TO IMPROVE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

by:

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Critical thinking is a set of skills and attitudes that are deployed selectively to evaluate arguments according to explicit standards of rationality.

For instance, just how broadminded is this idea of rationality? What is the role of emotional commitments and moral dimensions in these rational standards? These questions are very important. But let's focus on a shared recognition that critical thinking begins after an argument has been made and ends with a judgment about the worth of the argument.

It is important for young people to develop and utilize good critical thinking skills, not just for their education but for life. The better their ability to assess and evaluate a problem or situation, the better they will do whatever they decide to pursue. However, having good critical thinking skills will prevent you from being led around by more assertive people.

Being able to critically think through issues go your own direction. Working on and constantly improving critical thinking will help anyone in life, work, or whatever they attempt to accomplish. Constantly learn and always trust your own innate intelligence and instincts.

Teaching children how to think critically challenges teachers every time he/she teaches a lesson because producing learners to think critically is hard to achieve so here are some effective ways to develop your learners' critical thinking skills.

1. Questioning is at the heart of critical thinking, so you want to create an environment where intellectual curiosity is fostered and questions are encouraged.
2. Throw up questions to build an argument around and help your students break it down. Identify any ambiguous or subjective terms and have students simplify them.
3. Provide tools for entering the conversation.
4. Illustrate your expectations.
5. Encourage constructive controversy.
6. Choose topics that are applicable and significant to learners to get them talking and engaged.
7. Assess their reasoning through different methods.
8. Let learners evaluate each other. In this way, teachers improve their learner's critical thinking skills and the quality of their lives and that of society as well.

References:

Helping Your Students Improve Critical Thinking Skills Cindy L. Lynch and Susa K. Wolcott. Wolcott Lynch Associates.