CRITICAL THINKING IN CLASSROOMS

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During the last three years of the administration of Former Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd) Leonor Briones, she emphasized the need to focus on the learners' critical thinking. Critical thinking is, indeed, an essential skill to improve the understanding of different knowledge and skills.

Murawski (2014) explained that the art of critical thinking, which is frequently taught as a technique to better thinking, involves an approach to thinking and, more significantly, learning that encompasses shifting one's perspective on thinking. To understand how thinking might be enhanced, critical thinking takes into account how students develop and apply their mental processes. A person is typically considered a critical thinker to the extent that they consistently and consciously work to improve their thinking. The fundamental principle guiding the study of critical thinking is straightforward: identify one's thinking's positive and negative aspects in order to build on the positive aspects and strengthen the negative aspects.

Singh (2023) underscored that self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking are the fundamental components of critical thinking. Critical thought is one that is conducted in a self-directed manner. The current problem is internalized, and it is thoroughly understood from an impartial standpoint. The most important aspect of learning is critical thinking because it helps students reflect on and comprehend their own points of view. This ability aids a pupil in understanding the world through their own observations and insights. Because they are aware that the end is the product of a cognitive process that produces results, it helps learners become self-assured and

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confident. Additionally, students develop self-assurance and the capacity to learn from their errors, two skills that are essential in both their personal and professional life.

In this day and age, misinformation and disinformation are rampant. Fake news, inaccurate information, and propaganda are commonplace. Critical thinking can solve this problem. Misinformation is now extremely easily created and spread thanks to the internet world. As a result, it is now more difficult for people to combat this evil phenomenon. Critical thinking is the only tool that can win this informational war, though. People must be sure to be thinking critically about everything they read because the development of social media is significantly influencing how people consume news. According to Woollett (2022), to distinguish between fact and opinion, we must be able to debate the veracity of sources. Following our discovery and analysis of that, we are then able to formulate our own conclusions about the information being provided. Therefore, we simply would not be able to do this without critical thinking abilities, whether it be choosing whom to vote for, determining whether to see a film with a good review, or analyzing a significant international occurrence.

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