

SHAPING CRITICAL THINKERS: THE POWER OF INDUCTIVE TEACHING

by:

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Critical thinking has emerged as one of the most important abilities that students need to develop in this volatile, full of uncertainty, complicated and ambiguous world of today. It enables students to evaluate data, come to reasoned conclusions, and make wise choices. One effective strategy to cultivate critical thinking among students is the use of the inductive approach in teaching, where learners move from specific examples to general concepts. According to Oxford University Press ELT (2023), a deductive approach is providing learners with a general rule of the language instances and refined through practice tasks while in inductive approach students uncover patterns and figure out rules independently prior practicing the language.

Unlike the traditional deductive method that begins with rules and principles, the inductive approach encourages students to observe patterns, analyze data, and discover concepts for themselves. This process engages learners actively, prompting them to ask questions, test assumptions, and reflect on their reasoning. Students are therefore actively involved in creating their own understanding rather than just being passive consumers of information.

Through inductive teaching, students develop the ability to think critically. For instance, in a language class, in teaching Modals, rather than immediately providing grammatical rules, teachers may present sentences and let students identify patterns. In doing this, students will be guided to understand and draw conclusions from the examples rather than spoon feeding them. The questioning techniques employed by the teacher, elevates students' experiences and strengthen problem-solving skills, analytical

reasoning, and their confidence to evaluate evidence before forming judgments. (Altakhaineh et al., 2025)

Moreover, the inductive approach fosters independence and creativity. In guiding learners to arrive at conclusions on their own, teachers help them become more self-reliant thinkers who are not afraid to explore different perspectives. This approach also builds collaboration, as group discussions and peer sharing often lead to deeper insights and broadened viewpoints.

Developing critical thinking skills through the inductive approach in teaching is an effective way to prepare students for real-life challenges. By moving from examples to principles, learners engage in discovery and reflection, which sharpen their reasoning abilities.

References:

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