

Critical thinking in education

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Abstract: *The article that follows explains what CT is, why education needs it, and lists some of its advantages.*

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The ability to think critically is crucial for education. It supports students' ability to reason logically and analytically. Furthermore, it motivates learners to make real decisions and consider all relevant factors when resolving issues. Students that engage in critical thinking in the classroom are able to think more broadly. Critical thinking is the skill of effectively evaluating information or content and making decisions. "CT is the practical activity of making decisions through reasonable, reflective thinking" (Ennis, 1996).

As a teacher it is important to know that without defining the definition of critical thinking to learners, teachers cannot achieve the desired outcome. Moreover, due to its expanding impact on our development, we have recently heard this term used frequently. Although it can be challenging to accept ideas that cannot be rationally explained, critical thinking skills can become so ingrained in students when teachers promote it. Wilson (2016) mentioned that " In our information age, which is characterized by accelerating technological advancement and cultural exchanges, critical thinking (CT) is viewed as an integral part of education, including language education". The inability of EFL students to perform cognitively challenging tasks may be hampered by their inadequate English proficiency level. So EFL instructors may need to balance both language and CT training in their classes.

Activities involving the four language skills can be used to sharpen critical thinking. For example, Reed and Stavreva (2006) pointed out that "Listening

activities should progress from simple to complex cases to develop comprehension and foster CT ". Speaking activities for fostering CT include debates (Mullen, 2000). Debates are also one of the most effective activities which improve both Critical thinking and Speaking skill. Giving students essays on subjects that need in-depth thought, such as global warming, on a regular basis would undoubtedly improve their CT ability and have a huge impact on their writing skill.

References

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