

CREATIVE THINKING AND CRITICAL THINKING

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Introduction

Creative thinking and critical thinking are essential skills for students. Creative thinking in-values generating new ideas and possibilities, which critical thinking involves analyzing, evaluating and refining those ideas to reach reasonable conclusion. These skills are interconnected and can be fostered through active purposeful learning experiences that encourage inquiry, collaboration and a culture teachers multiple perspectives are welcome.

Objectives

This study intends to:

1. Define the concept of creative thinking
2. State and define the components of creative thinking
3. Define the concept of critical thinking
4. State and define the components of critical thinking

What is Creative Thinking?

Creative thinking is an invaluable skill with ability to generate new, novel or useful ideas, original and solutions through the process of imagination and critical analysis. It is a skill that involves being sensitive to problems, finding multiple solutions and adapting to challenges through a cycle of idea generation, testing, refinement and communication. According to Australian Institute of Professional Counselors (2021). The person who follows the crowd will get no further than them, but the person who walks alone is likely to discover places no one has ever been before. Creative thinking is a companion to critical thinking as they are complementary skills that work together to solve problems. Creative thinking generates new ideas, while critical thinking analyses, evaluates and refines them into viable solution. Creative thinking focuses on possibility while critical thinking focuses on logic and assessment.

Components of Creative Thinking

The following are the components of creative thinking:

1. **Sensitivity to Problems:** It is the ability to identify and recognize problems, gaps in knowledge or areas for improvement.
2. **Idea Generation:-** It is the ability to produce a variety of ideas which is known as divergent thinking.
3. **Mental Flexibility:** It is the ability to look at things from multiple perspectives.
4. **Testing and Refinement:** It is the ability to evaluate, modify and test ideas through critical analysis and experimentation.
5. **Communication:** It is the ability to share effective ideas through communication to others.

What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking refers to analysis and evaluation of ideas. According to Robert (2016) critical thinking involves analysis and evaluation, interpretation and judgment. It is a kind of thinking in which you reflect, analyze when making decisions and solving problems. It defines problems, identifies competing arguments, uses relevant data, raises key questions and uses information effectively to make reasoned judgment.

The word “critical” is derived from the Greek word “kritikos” which means “judgment”.

Characteristics of Critical Thinking

The following are the characteristics of critical thinking:

1. Noticing perceptively and establishing careful connections.
2. Asking probing questions and making meaningful distinctions.
3. Involvement in analysis, interpreting and evaluating evidence.
4. Applying knowledge and thinking independently and interdependently.

Components of Critical Thinking

The following are the components of critical thinking:

1. **Analysis:** Analysis is considered a core component as it is the breaking down of complex information into its basic elements, making it more manageable and comprehensible how different parts contribute to the whole. This step is essential for forming clear and accurate understanding of complex issues (Ashveen, 2025).
2. **Evaluation:** It is also a core component because it ensures that the information and arguments you use are credible and relevant.

Evaluating the quality and reliability of sources helps maintain the integrity of your reasoning and supports well-informed decision-making without this step, you risk basing your decisions on faulty or biased information, which can lead to incorrect conclusions.

3. **Inference:** It is a key component because it enables you to draw logical conclusions based on the evidence you have analyzed and evaluated. This is crucial for making reasoned judgments and solving problems effectively. To implement effective inference, ensure that your conclusions logically follow from the evidence you have gathered.
4. **Explanation:** This is fundamental because it allows you to clearly articulate your reasoning and conclusions to others. Effective communication of your thought process is essential for persuading others and facilitating constructive discussions. By presenting your reasoning in a clear and organized manner, you help others understand and evaluate your arguments.
5. **Self-Regulation:** This involves monitoring and reflecting on your own thought processes and biases which enhances your objectivity. This component helps you recognize and correct personal biases that could distant our reasoning. Regular self-assessment and feedback contribute to more accurate and unbiased thinking.
6. **Perception:** It is the recognition of personal biases influencing judgments, being aware of those influences helps you to adjust and make more accurate decisions. By perceiving how various factors affect your thinking, you can mitigate the impact of personal biases and improve your overall judgment.
7. **Fallacy Recognition:-** It is a component of critical thinking that involves spotting logical errors that weaken arguments and lead to faulty conclusions. Identifying these fallacies ensures arguments are based on sound logic, not misleading reasoning. This skills is crucial for evaluating argument, maintaining argument integrity and making rational decisions. Having identified and explained the core components of critical thinking, we should understand that all these

components interact to shape the effectiveness of reasoning and decision-making.

Conclusion

Generally, creative thinking correlated to critical thinking for problem-solving. According to Bengi (2015) there are three dimensions through which creative thinking relate with critical thinking in problem solving and these are the processes of, synthesizing, articulation and imagination. Synthesizing is a dimension which includes various activities as getting benefit from analogous thinking, deducing various activities such as small parts, presenting novel and authentic suggestions to the solution of the problem.

Articulation: it involves forming the old and new knowledge or expanding the current knowledge with the help of the new one imagination. This dimension is consisted of constructing relationship between valid and reliable thoughts, presenting flexible ways of thoughts during idea producing process. Hence, creative thinking is related to critical thinking for problem-solving.

Review Questions

1. Define the concept of creative thinking
2. State and define the components of creative thinking
3. Define the concept of critical thinking
4. State and define the components of creative thinking

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