

## **Using critical thinking strategies**

Thinking comes naturally. You don't have to make it happen-it just does. But you can make it happen in different ways. For example, you can think positively or negatively. You can think with "heart" and you can think with rational judgment. You can also think strategically and analytically, and mathematically and scientifically. These are few multiple ways in which the mind can process thoughts.

Critical thinking is thinking on purpose. It's clear, rational, logical, and independent thinking. It means thinking in a self-regulated and self-corrective manner. Critical thinking are useful in all fields. This skill help you analyze information wisely and make correct deductions. It also helps you to be a skeptic when you work with unproven and suspicious information that is why the development of this skill is necessary or useful for you.

There are many strategies for critical thinking that you can learn. It is better to combine different strategies to get the best effect for you and you will see how it changes your thoughts and your way of writing papers. It doesn't mean that you shouldn't believe anything that is told to you by any person or media. This means you have to confirm everything you learn before using it as the basis for your studies.

Teachers appreciate students who use these skills. They usually get much better grades and the possibility to get better results in future studies. That is why you should study strategies of critical thinking considerably.

If teachers read a paper and understand that this student is able to analyze information critically, make the right deductions, and persuade readers, they will give a good grade for it. You can use it for any creative type of academic paper.

### **Effective Critical Thinking Strategies for Students**

#### **1: Different points of view.**

When people are young, they usually think only from their perspective and don't have a complete understanding of what others have in mind. When you grow and become a student, you should study each problem from different points of view and try to understand why other people think another way, even if it seems strange and not typical to you.

## **2: Read a lot.**

This is one of the most crucial strategies to improve critical thinking. If you encourage and read the thoughts of gifted writers, you also develop a more complex flow of thoughts in your mind and use it for writing better papers.

## **3: Analyze everything you see.**

If you can see a fact that seems to be suspicious, look deeper and find information that confirms it. If you find out that this fact is false, it will help you in your information analysis studies.

## **4: Debate with others.**

If you disagree with your friends or classmates on a specific topic, make debates about it and try to prove your opinion. You should consider all the arguments from all sides.

### **Examine your assumption:**

Assumptions are the prism through which we view the world. We are “drawn to” or “expelled by” things that align with our assumptions, beliefs and values. If we don’t examine our own assumption, we can’t become good critical thinkers, critical readers, or exceptional writers.

### **Make predictions:**

Making predictions is a strategy in which readers use information from a text (including titles, headings, pictures, diagram) and their own personal experience to anticipate what they are about to read (or what comes next). A reader involved in making predictions is focused on the text at hand, constantly thinking ahead and also refining, revising, and verifying his or her predictions. When making predictions, students envision what will come next in the text, based on their prior knowledge. Predicting encourages children to actively think ahead and ask questions. It also allows students to understand the story better, make connections to what they are reading, and interact with the text.

### **Read with a purpose:**

Regardless of why you are reading the particular text, the key to reading effectively is to always have a purpose in mind you should always know why you are reading and what you want to get from material. During the course of your studies you will be required to read for a variety of purposes.

**Sharpen your interpretations:**

An interpretation is an inference from a specific point of view. Two people might have the same fact, but with different point of view, they may each come to a different solution to the problem. You would need to develop the skill of interpreting and understanding the significance or meaning of information. You have to sharpen your interpretations which aids to concluding what the meaning of processed information is.

**Find implications in what way you learn:**

An implication is that to which our thinking is leading us. Active reading involves constructing meaning from the words on the page. There are many tools and skills to help readers be actively engaged in the process of reading. One of the tools that readers can use while reading involves recognizing implications, or connections and suggestions about what's going on.

**Read and understand graphics:**

Don't skip over diagrams and graphs when reading. These visual aids provide summarize or can illustrate a complex process. Understanding how to read them is a very efficient way to learn material. Graphs and charts present fact and figures in concise visual ways, while diagrams offer a clear picture of objects and other structures, highlighting the parts of each and their relationship. Knowing how to "read" the graphics will help you understand and evaluate the information they present.

**Evaluate what you learn:**

Evaluation is a very important requirement for the students of what they learn. Evaluation is the determination of the congruence between performance and objectives. The critical evaluation of ideas, arguments, and points of view is important for the development of students. It fulfills various purposes in system of education like quality control in education. It also help one to take decisions about success in specific future activities and provide guidance to further studies and occupation.