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Critical Thinking

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**OKUNLOLA BETIKU**

Table of Contents

Cover Page.………………………………………………………………………………….…….1

Table of Content………………………………………………………………………….…….….2

[Introduction………………………………………………………………………………………..3](#_Toc88904467)

[Definition of critical Thinking 3](#_Toc88904468)

General Analysis…………………………………………………………………………………..4

[What is critical thinking? 5](#_Toc88904469)

[A psychological perspective of critical thinking 6](#_Toc88904470)

[Thinking Skills in Education and Life](#_Toc88904471) [6](#_Toc88904472)

[Complex Thinking 8](#_Toc88904473)

Facts on Critical Thinking...…………………………………………….………………………9

[Six Thinking Hats 1](#_Toc88904474)0

[Creative Training and development 1](#_Toc88904475)1

[How to Achieve Critical Thinking 1](#_Toc88904476)3

[Thinking Critical and Creatively 1](#_Toc88904477)6

[Critical Thinking sheet Questions Figure 1 1](#_Toc88904478)8

Questions a Critical Thinker Ask Figure 2...…………………………………………………….13

[References 20](#_Toc88904479)

# Introduction

Suppose there is any reason that promotes a fundamental conclusion of any claim. In that case, it is an ability to think critically over such a claim. Every action made in this world was successful because people applied critical thinking. However, critical thinking is using reason and proof to evaluate claims. A claim is just a simple statement that somebody makes concerning reality. Critical thinking helps us to investigate, assess, and improve. This paper's content material will elaborate on different examples of critical thinking. The bone of contention is how critical thinking has helped humanity achieve an appreciable transformation. Whenever a statement or claim is formed, the key is to guide these logically and to look at the definitions, evidence, and alternative aspects of the claim to visualize if it is reasonable or not. More significantly, crucial thinking is not only for science or conservatory. Rather, crucial thinking ought to play a task in several everyday selections, from creating massive commitments, for example, shopping for a cellular phone contract, cars, houses, lodging rentals, selecting whether to accept associate degree apology or clarification for a transgression to picking wherever to park at TCC. Scholars should leave school with crucial solid thinking skills to realize permanent success.

**Definition of critical Thinking**

The term critical thinking has been around for centuries. Scholars and researchers have provided varied definitions of the term. Critical thinking requires discipline, focus, detailed analysis, synthesis, reflection, observation, reasoning, communication, and application. Therefore, critical thinking transcends subject matter (Forawi, 2016). Critical thinking is believed to have originated from Socrates about 2500 years ago when he invented probing questions (Acim, 2018). Socrates posited that one could not entirely depend on their thoughts, experiences, knowledge, and insight as these conceptions may be inadequate, empty, and confused.

Furthermore, Socrates underscored the need to ask deep questions, especially those in power. They may be deluded that we can accept ideas as ration when irrational. Additionally, Socrates emphasized the need to seek evidence, closely examine it, analyze the underlying concepts, and trace the correlations between what is said and the nuances and what is done (Klempe, 2020). This method of probing scenario became commonly known as Socratic questioning. The underlying ideas in Socratic questioning are the need to seek clarity and logical consistency in ideas. Therefore, it is imperative that Socrates laid the foundation for critical thinking. This foundation was made of reflective questioning of shared beliefs and explanations, distinguishing between beliefs and logical concepts. However, he warns that some of these conceptions may be disguised as logical while personal interests. He states that such conceptions can only be revealed through adequate evidence or rational foundation to warrant their standing among great ideas.

###  General Analysis

Plato followed in the footsteps of Socrates in furthering the concepts of critical thinking by recording his thoughts (Cameron, 2021). Aristotle and the Greek skeptics buttressed Socrates' conceptions of irrational ideas disguised as logical ideas. They posited that things are mostly different from how they appear, and only a trained mind can distinguish between delusive appearances and the deeper realities of life. These Greek thinkers ingrained critical thinking ideas to everybody who aspired to understand the deeper realities of life. They emphasized that critical thinkers must be ready to question, comprehend, probe, think systematically, and respond to objections in a way that takes the doubters beyond the surface.

Later, in the Middle Ages, Critical Thinking was incorporated into the writings and teachings of great thinkers such as Thomas Aquinas. He ensured that he met the test for critical thinking through systematic, reasoned, and thoughtful consideration of all criticisms. Aquinas bolstered the need to think systematically and provided reasoned arguments to criticisms.

During the Renaissance, several scholars in Europe began to critically explore various concepts and subjects, such as law, human nature, freedom, art, society, and religion. These scholars followed in the footsteps of ancient thinkers by assuming that human life is always searching for analysis and critique. Other scholars such as Francis Bacon posited that the human mind always seeks knowledge. We mostly misuse it by leaving it to its natural tendencies. Moreover, he argued that we must study the environment through empirical study hence laying the foundation for modern science.

# What is critical thinking?

## A psychological perspective of critical thinking

According to psychologists, critical thinking can be argued from a developmental and cognitive theory perspective. Halpern posits that critical thinking comprises an individual's ability to reflect and assess their thought processes (Ramlaul, Duncan & Alltree, 2021). He further argues that critical thinking requires analytical skills and an appreciation of rules and criteria to make a reasoned judgment. Sternberg (1996) argues that critical thinking refers to the mental processes, approaches, and representations people use to solve challenges, learn new ideas, and decide. This view has often been criticized by philosophers who posit that such a definition lacks the depth that defines critical thinking. Cognitive psychology provides what has been described as a holistic definition of critical thinking. According to cognitive psychology, critical thinking depends on thorough reflection and evaluation of evidence to make logical judgments about the merits and demerits of the claim.

**A psychological** perspective on Critical Thinking

This perspective borrows heavily from the writings of Socrates, Aristotle, Plato, and many other philosophers. The perspective relies heavily on the character and disposition of the critical thinker as opposed to the behaviors and processes associated with critical thought. Plato’s Cave Analogy exemplifies this conception by elucidating how our worldviews determine our assumptions, affecting how we respond to different scenarios (Sullivan, 2020).

According to Glaser, Critical Thinking must have certain critical ingredients. These ingredients include the ability to be disposed to consider in a thoughtful way the challenges and subjects, knowledge of the methods of logical reasoning and inquiry, and the skills to apply those methodologies. Several modern philosophers have adopted Glaser's definition because it incorporates the quality of our thinking. Through learning and inquiry, we can continually improve our critical thinking skills. Paul refines the definition by postulating that critical thinking should be viewed as a search for truth and should be distinguished from sophisticated thinkers who apply their critical thinking skills to advance selfish motives. This argument is premised on the understanding that human thinking is limitless, natural, and should continually be assessed, analyzed, reflected on, and improved.

 **Thinking Skills in Education and Life**

In section one above, critical thinking was defined as the ability to reflect and evaluatively make reasoned judgments about a subject based on the evidence presented. Consequently, critical thinking is an essential skill to possess in education circles and life. Critical thinking, according to researchers, is a deliberate, self-regulatory judgment that leads to in-depth analysis, appraisal, and determination, as well as an explanation of the evidential, theoretical, procedural, and situational considerations that form the basis of the decision. Therefore, critical thinking is an essential component of inquiry. It is an unstoppable liberating force in education and civic life. Critical thinkers are habitually learning, relearning, and unlearning. These traits help them to continually rectify their weaknesses while improving their judgment of daily occurrences. Also, critical thinking is a journey to self-discovery through continually seeking to be fair-minded in evaluation, honest in facing personal biases, clarity about challenging issues, the order in complicated matters, diligent, and committed to searching for truthful information (Raza et al., 2017). Therefore, educating critical thinkers is to embark them on a life journey to self-discovery and fulfillment. They derive these attributes through focused inquiry, persistence in seeking results as precise as the subject under consideration. Working towards such ideals becomes a worthwhile endeavor and ingraining these dispositions to the members of the society forms the basis and cornerstone of a democratic society. Through critical thinking in education, we can distinguish facts from opinions and feelings through inductive and deductive judgments since critical thinking helps us recognize that our claim about an idea can have a broad spectrum, from feelings to opinions and everything else in between. Many students do not distinguish between reasoned judgments and logical reasoning and evaluation of evidence and presenting views to support a flawed perspective presented as factual. From this view, many practitioners, and critical thinkers caution against falling prey to subjective reasoning that may be common in some disciplines such as education and civic life. Scholars suggest that it is essential for teachers to continually upgrade their skills to ensure they have the necessary intellectual standards to raise critical thinking skills among the students. Once they clarify their critical thinking standards, they will enhance students' articulation of their thought processes to move from simple to substantive reasoning crucial for education and civic life.

# Complex Thinking

Complex Thinking implies abstract reasoning. Complex Thinking may be described as the ability to connect different dimensions of reality. A continuum of levels characterizes it from synthesizing to analyzing. Specifically, complex Thinking involves three critical skills: synthesis, analysis, and judgment. Complex thinking may be taught in the classroom through various strategies. The teacher has to differentiate the curriculum to increase the use of higher order thinking skills. It involves providing tasks that enhance creative thinking, critical thinking, and problem-solving concepts. Complex thinking among students implies that they can apply complex thinking processes to new problems, use their skills to create new knowledge, goods, or concepts, and then assess the qualities of their thinking.

Consequently, learners need to develop a repertoire of higher order thinking skills; however, gifted students should spend more time honing their complex thinking skills by solving challenging skills. The onus of developing these skills in the classroom falls on the teacher. He must devise strategies to teach students various higher order thinking skills through carefully selected activities and resources. Notably, the teacher must be adept at developing these strategies not to lump the students into similar clusters even when they are beyond those levels. Applying different strategies to teach various concepts will help the teacher hone the different types of thinking. The teacher must select those strategies that align with the learning outcomes. The teacher should consistently apply the same model across various content areas to bolster learning outcomes. It has been deemed to have tremendous benefits to students rather than applying different models for different learning areas. Nevertheless, students should be exposed to various models across different models and heuristics during their schooling years.

**Facts on Critical Thinking**

As outlined in section one above, critical thinking has been around for a long time since the era of Socrates. Over time the concept has evolved to incorporate various ideas encapsulating the human mind. The term has its roots in ancient Greek. A broad definition of the term implies an attempt to judge objectively to determine the merits and drawbacks by carefully examining available evidence and applying the appropriate evaluative standards to determine the actual value, worth, or value in a substance. This definition extrapolates the common perception that the human mind must be continually improved through self-reflection, research, probing, observation, communication, analysis, creative thinking, and analysis.

Therefore, critical thinking is a rigorous journey to self-discovery through persistent observation, research, evaluation, analysis, synthesis, reflection, and communication. Against this backdrop, critical thinking is deemed a lifelong endeavor because it takes time to develop these skills and apply them to new situations. Therefore, critical thinking differs markedly from the mere acquisition of information. It encompasses acquiring the information, analyzing it to determine its worth, and synthesizing it for application to new situations.

However, there are several variations of critical thinking depending on its motivation. For example, selfish critical thinkers may exemplify their critical thinking skills by manipulating information to suit their parochial interests. Even though such interests may be practically successful, they cannot be deemed intellectual standing. The ideas lack intellectual integrity and fair-mindedness that define a balanced critical thinking idea even though the critics may criticize the ideas as romantic or idealistic.

# Six Thinking Hats

It is an essential tool for developing solutions through a holistic analysis of the prevailing challenge. The tool allows the team to develop an efficient parallel thinking process leading to increased productivity, focus, and involvement. The Six Thinking Hats is an effective tool that can be applied to various scenarios because it provides a panoramic view of the issue at hand (Aithal, 2017). The colors symbolically help redirect thoughts, conversations, conceptions, and feelings to help generate the optimum solution to a problem. The Six Thinking Hats are as follows and their meaning.

1. The White Hat signifies the available data or facts.
2. The Yellow Hat signifies optimism and brightness. This allows the team to explore the attendant opportunities and value in the substance.
3. The Black Hat signifies the prevailing risks, challenges, and problems. It allows the team to expand their thinking to analyze what could go wrong with the proposed solutions.
4. The Green Hat symbolizes creativity. It exemplifies the unlimited possibilities inherent in creative minds to generate alternate solutions and new ideas. It provides the team with an opportunity to share new concepts and perceptions.
5. The Blue Hat represents the management of the thinking process. It implies the stability needed to steer the entire ship through rough waters. From a practical perspective, it implies the application of rules, procedures, and guidelines to steer the process to its logical conclusion.
6. The Red Hat represents the gut punch, feelings, and emotions. This Hat allows the team members to voice their fears, likes, dislikes, loves, and hates.

# Creative Training and development

An organized initiative by an organization to promote workers' acquisition of job-related competencies is referred to as Training (Mohammed, Ibrahim, and Kawugana). These capabilities encompass the abilities, expertise, behaviors, and dispositions required to execute job-related work effectively shortly. On the other hand, development refers to employees' learning for anticipated roles in the future. Training has become a central cog in creating and sustaining competitive advantage in the corporate world and civic life.

Traditionally, Training involves acquiring the basic skills necessary to perform daily tasks in the organization. However, as competition increased, the focus shifted from acquiring basic and advanced skills to incorporating the ability to extensively apply, share knowledge, and modify goods and services to meet ever-changing customer needs. It also involves the creative application of knowledge and insights to respond to emerging problems in daily life.

# Creative marketing

Creative marketing may be defined as the generation and application of unique communication messages in an innovative way enabling clients to remember them hence increasing brand recognition, awareness, and loyalty (Muritala, 2021). The term may also imply a set of activities developed to promote goods and services for the target market to accomplish the business objectives. Creative marketing is the cornerstone of outsmarting the competitors instead of outspending them. Creative marketing is essential for new businesses because many factors are not in their favor. Examples of creative marketing approaches include new pricing models, value propositions, customer-driven policies, a streamlined supply chain, and unique ways to reach customers.

The business environment changes rapidly, and companies have to keep up or ship out. Consequently, it is necessary to effectively adapt, integrate, and exploit the available resources to revitalize the business in a competitive environment. The development of creative marketing approaches and practical application of resources is the best strategy to edge out the competition and sustain it. Creative marketing techniques are highly correlated with increased job performance. It can increase sales, brand recognition, brand awareness, increase subscriptions, and reduce production costs.

# Product and pricing strategies

Developing a creative pricing strategy is essential in the current competitive business environment. Pricing a new product becomes even more critical because there is no history to base the price on. Numerous pricing strategies have been developed to respond to market needs. These pricing strategies include cost-plus pricing, psychological, penetration pricing, promotional, and skimming (AlJazzazen, 2019). Skimming and penetration pricing models are the most recommended pricing strategies, especially for new products. Several factors determine the price of products. These include demand for the product, level of competition, and circumstances related to market environment and economics. Consequently, to reach the optimal price for a product, the business must consider the customers, competitors, and itself. The situation implies that the business must have sufficient knowledge about different variables and know the internal business elements to reduce the complexity of the pricing model.

# Business Models, Business Strategy & Innovation

Creating a business enterprise involves defining implicitly or explicitly the business model to employ. A business model defines the business's architecture of value creation, delivery, and capture mechanisms to deploy (Geissdoerfer, Vladimirova & Evans, 2018). Notably, the business model aims to clarify how the business will deliver value to clients, entice them to pay for the products and services, and convert payments to profits. Thus, a business model is a theoretical conception of how the business will meet customers’ needs, how they want it delivered, how the business will organize itself to meet those needs, and get paid for it to profit.

Developments in technology have tremendously shifted the traditional balance between customers and suppliers. Technology has opened new opportunities hence increasing the available options to customers. Therefore, businesses have to be more customer-centric through re-evaluating their value propositions. The situation requires carefully crafted business models powered by innovative teams to deliver in a competitive environment.

A successful business is borne of a good business model, innovative strategies, and the application of customer-centric initiatives to create and sustain a competitive advantage in an increasingly evolving business landscape. Even though a business model may be successful, it does not guarantee to develop a competitive advantage.

**How to Achieve Critical Thinking**

According to Lumen Located (2021), eight things are expected to be considered to attain critical thinking skills, and without these essential points, it will be tough to make the right decision or claim.

**Purpose:** Trying what the author is attempting to accomplish and how that purpose would work or against just reading the situation.

**Question and assessing information:** Have faith in what queries it raises. One wants to clarify his or her understanding of a claim. To attain this goal, we should avoid falling victim to unverified or biased claims. If somebody claims to obtain a free iPad, then we may marvel what the word free suggests that therein case. Raise ourselves queries like, "Are there complexities to the current issue that we are not seeing here?" "Do we even have the experience to know the problems here?" There are many complexities within the "free iPad" example. Additionally, ask what this idea will make a case for, why it is necessary, and how it will help us.

**Point of View:** Think about the author's purpose and ours. Are they the same? How would their (or our) purpose of reading influence our beliefs? Analysis shows that we tend to accept claims with that we tend to trust less proof and demand additional proof for claims with that we tend to disagree. That is only one method that reading time will impact thinking, thus use caution of it.

**Assumptions:** Think about what the author (or you) deem granted or believe to be actual. These will vastly affect what we may settle for as accurate or not. A decent crucial thinker examines all assumptions, as well as their own. We tend to jump to conclusions, and rather we should have faith in the implications. To judge our thinking, we should cultivate the concept to raise ourselves. What assumptions did we build during this situation, and why did we build those assumptions? What proof leads the American state to those assumptions? What are we missing, and what would we like to understand regarding it?

**Data:** Examine what information is given for the claim. Think about the validity of the info. This is often critical! Perceive that not all resources area unit objective. What are the peer reviews on this claim?

Concepts: Consider- can we make a case for the most idea? If we do not perceive the author's ideas to induce across, we will not be ready to measure it critically.

**Conclusions:** Have faith in however they need to the conclusion. Is there a transparent chain of proof that clearly shows however they need to the conclusion?

**Implications:** This one refers to what it suggests if we settle for the claim as true. What will that acceptance then mean for us or others? For instance, if Person A seems to possess cheated on their partner, B. If B accepts A's account of the story, then B can quiet down quicker and be additional possible to trust A within the future. If B does not settle for A's rationalization, then B is also possible to be upset, resentful, and finish the connection.

****To go to the opposite extreme, we tend to be broad-minded and willing to accept new and different ideas and reject previous ones because they become applicable. It is entirely applicable to expect proof for a footing before modifying our views. However, use caution of expecting an excessive amount of proof for cherished positions. It is an enormous mistake to suppose broad-minded indicates "to settle for everything while not proof"; however, it is equally a giant mistake to expect good evidence to reject a belief whereas supporting that belief with imperfect evidence! Additionally, we must reframe and incorporate different views, and we need to consider our discipline biologically, philosophically, and mathematically.

 **Thinking Critical and Creatively**

Critical thinking skills are the foremost basic skills concerned with making judgments and resolving issues. We utilize them daily, and we will continue improving them. The power to think critically about a matter—to analyze an issue, situation, or downside right down to its most simple parts—helps us assess the accuracy and rightness of statements, claims, and information we tend to read or hear. As an old adage, it is the sharp knife that, when honed, separates reality from fiction, honesty from lies, and also the correct from the misleading. We tend to all use this ability to at least one degree or another nearly daily. For instance, we tend to use crucial Thinking daily as we tend to take into account the most recent client merchandise and why one specific product is that the best among its peers. Is it a top-quality product because of a celebrity endorsing it? As a result of loads of people might have used it? As a result, has it been created by one company versus another? Or maybe due to it being created in one country or another? These are measure queries representative of crucial thinking. The educational setting demands additional people in terms of crucial thinking than existence. It demands that we have a tendency to assess info and analyze myriad problems. It is the surroundings wherever our crucial thinking skills will distinguish between success and failure. During these surroundings, we tend to take into account information analytically and crucially. We tend to raise questions—What is the source of this report? Is this a knowledgeable source, and what makes it so? Are there multiple views to contemplate on an issue? Do multiple sources agree or disagree on an issue? Will quality analysis substantiate information or opinion? Do we even have any personal biases that affect our thought of this information? It is solely through purposeful, frequent, intentional questioning like this that we can sharpen our crucial thinking skills and improve as students, learners, and researchers (Located, 2021).

Finally, Wisdom Theoretical Domain Theoretical reported, critical thinking involves helping the student develop an appreciation for scientific explanations of behavior, which means learning the content of psychology and how and why psychology is organized into concepts, principles, laws, and theories. However, developing theoretical skills begins in the introductory course, where the primary critical thinking objective is to understand and apply concepts appropriately. For instance, when students are introduced to the principles of reinforcement, they can experiment with the principles in the news or make up stories that illustrate them (Halonen, 1996).



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