



Critical Thinking as an Educational Tool: A Justification for the Revival of the Speech and Thought Paradigm

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Defining Critical Thinking

- Scholars often offer own definitions of critical thinking
- Definitions include these skills:
 - Analysis
 - Evaluation
 - Reflection
 - Develop & analyze arguments



Speech and Thought Paradigm

- Communication and critical thinking skills are inextricably linked
- Communication helps students improve their ability with language, and their ability to formulate and express ideas
- Communication is essential to the thinking and learning process
- Critical thinking instruction most effective when housed in content courses



Critical Thinking Pedagogy

■ Active Classrooms:

- Allow students to become active participants in learning process
- Give students opportunity to verbalize and rationalize ideas
- Encourage students to create own ideas and understandings



Critical Thinking Pedagogy Cont.

■ Discussions:

- Allow students to do most of the talking
- Allow students to become more engaged in content
- Form their own questions, thoughts, and opinions about the content

Critical Thinking Pedagogy Cont.

- Higher Order Questions:
 - Allow students to comprehend the material, form their own unique meaning of it, and verbalize their opinions
- Teach students to create higher order questions using “question stems”
 - “What is the nature of...”
 - “What are the implications of...”
 - “What is a counterargument for...”



Critical Thinking Assessment

- Have clear definition of critical thinking in mind before starting assessment
- Educators should create their own set of skills
- Have a clear purpose in mind before starting assessment
- Use own judgment when assessing the validity of a measure – take it ourselves



Thank you!