



International Conference on Modern Science and Scientific Studies

Hosted online from Madrid, Spain

Website: econfseries.com

20th October 2025

APPLICATION OF CRITICAL THINKING TECHNIQUES IN THE CLASSROOM

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Abstract

This article explores the crucial role of critical thinking techniques in enhancing the teaching and learning process in modern education. Critical thinking is recognized as one of the essential competencies of the 21st century, as it enables learners to go beyond memorization and engage in deeper levels of analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of knowledge. The article emphasizes that the systematic application of critical thinking techniques—such as questioning strategies, problem-solving tasks, debates, case studies, and collaborative learning—not only develops intellectual skills but also nurtures creativity, independent learning, and responsibility among students. Furthermore, the study highlights how teachers serve as facilitators in this process, guiding learners through constructive feedback, inquiry-based activities, and reflective practices. By integrating these techniques into classroom instruction, teachers can foster an active learning environment where students are encouraged to ask questions, challenge assumptions, and explore multiple perspectives. The paper also discusses the potential challenges educators may face in implementing these strategies, such as time constraints, curriculum limitations, and students’ lack of prior exposure to critical thinking tasks.

Аннотация

В статье рассматривается применение техник критического мышления в образовательном процессе. Отмечается, что использование таких методов, как постановка вопросов, решение проблем, дискуссии, анализ кейсов и групповая работа, способствует развитию у студентов аналитического и творческого мышления, самостоятельности и ответственности. Подчеркивается важная роль учителя как фасилитатора, создающего активную и мотивирующую учебную среду.



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Keywords: Critical thinking, problem-solving, classroom strategies, higher-order thinking, debates, case studies, student engagement, active learning.

In the 21st century, education is no longer limited to memorization and reproduction of knowledge. The demand for critical and analytical skills has become a necessity in preparing students for real-life challenges. Critical thinking is considered one of the key competencies for lifelong learning, as it enables learners to question assumptions, evaluate evidence, and draw logical conclusions. Classroom application of critical thinking techniques plays an essential role in nurturing independent thinkers. Teachers are encouraged to move beyond traditional teaching methods and implement active learning strategies that challenge students intellectually.

1. Importance of Critical Thinking in Education

Critical thinking equips students with the ability to go beyond surface-level understanding. It allows them to analyze multiple perspectives, solve problems creatively, and become more responsible decision-makers. This is particularly significant in today's rapidly changing world, where information is abundant and critical evaluation skills are essential.

2. Techniques for Applying Critical Thinking in the Classroom

- Questioning Strategies: Teachers can use open-ended and higher-order questions (based on Bloom's Taxonomy) to stimulate deeper thinking.
- Problem-Solving Tasks: Real-life scenarios or project-based learning activities encourage students to analyze problems and develop practical solutions.
- Debates and Discussions: Classroom debates develop students' reasoning, argumentation, and evidence-based thinking skills.
- Case Studies: Analyzing case studies helps students apply theoretical knowledge to practical contexts, enhancing analytical and evaluative skills.
- Collaborative Learning: Group activities promote teamwork, negotiation, and exposure to diverse viewpoints.

3. Teacher's Role in Promoting Critical Thinking

Teachers act as facilitators rather than mere transmitters of knowledge. Their role is to guide students by creating an environment where questioning, exploration, and



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reflection are encouraged. By providing constructive feedback, scaffolding, and opportunities for independent inquiry, teachers help students strengthen their critical thinking abilities.

4. Challenges in Implementation

Despite its importance, the application of critical thinking techniques may face challenges such as time limitations, curriculum constraints, or students' lack of prior exposure to such methods. Continuous teacher training and integration of critical thinking into the curriculum can address these issues.

I believe this article will be an important and interesting reference for every student. By studying this work, learners will recognize that the application of critical thinking techniques is not only a teaching strategy but also a powerful tool for shaping independent, analytical, and creative thinkers. Critical thinking allows students to go beyond memorization, enabling them to question, evaluate, and apply knowledge in meaningful ways. The integration of questioning, problem-solving, debates, case studies, and collaborative learning helps students develop essential life skills such as decision-making, creativity, and problem-solving. Teachers, by adopting the role of facilitators, guide learners toward becoming active participants in their educational journey. Therefore, the effective use of critical thinking techniques in the classroom should be seen as a vital component of modern education. It provides the foundation for preparing a generation that is capable of addressing the complex challenges of the 21st century with confidence and responsibility.

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