

PATHWAYS TO CRITICAL THINKING



**HOW
DO
WE
DEFINE
CRITICAL
THINKING?
(1/2)**

1. "Seeing both sides of an issue." -- Daniel Willingham
2. "An ability to use reason to move beyond the acquisition of facts to uncover deep meaning." -- Robert Weissberg

**HOW
DO
WE
DEFINE
CRITICAL
THINKING?
(2/2)**

3. “A reflective and reasonable thought process embodying depth, accuracy, and astute judgment to determine the merit of a decision, an object, or a theory.” -- Huda Umar Alwehaibi
4. “Self-guided, self-disciplined thinking which attempts to reason at the highest level of quality in a fair-minded way.” -- Linda Elder

**WHAT
IS
CRITICAL
THINKING?**

Research suggests there is a strong link between knowledge and critical thinking, especially the specific content knowledge which can be interpreted as disciplinary knowledge

Analytical Skill

Noticing the wider social, economic and political context of the claims

Understanding the methods of proof used to support those claims or perspectives

Critical Thinking

Noticing the wider social, economic and political context of the claims

Questioning or challenging those claims

Critical thinking

Set of a 'good' thinking skills associated with it

Different approaches are proposed to enhance critical thinking

Socratic questioning techniques, collaborative work are all useful strategies to develop critical voice

Criticality involves analytical skills and critical thinking

THE IMPORTANCE OF CRITICAL THINKING

1. Research suggests that critical thinking is related to student achievement, especially its positive influence on the achievements of learners
2. Successful learners demonstrate active and creative participation in the learning process, in particular in the use of learning strategies
3. Successful, argumentative writing depends on students' level of critical thinking

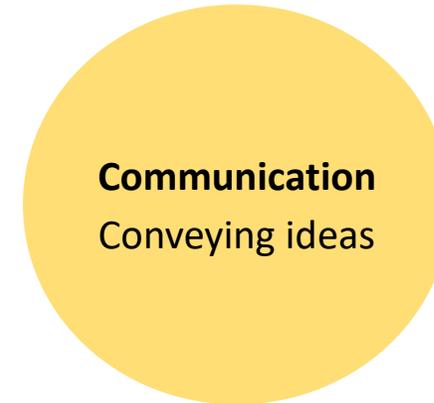
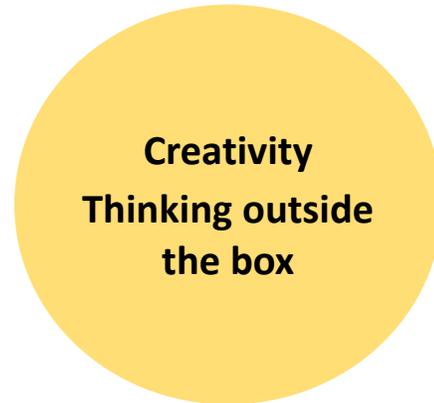
**WHAT
DO
CRITICAL
THINKERS
DO?**

1. Understand the logical connections between ideas.
2. Identify, construct, and evaluate arguments.
3. Detect inconsistencies and common mistakes in reasoning.
4. Solve problems systematically.
5. Identify the relevance and importance of ideas.
6. Reflect on the justification of one's own beliefs and values

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS FOR CRITICAL THINKING

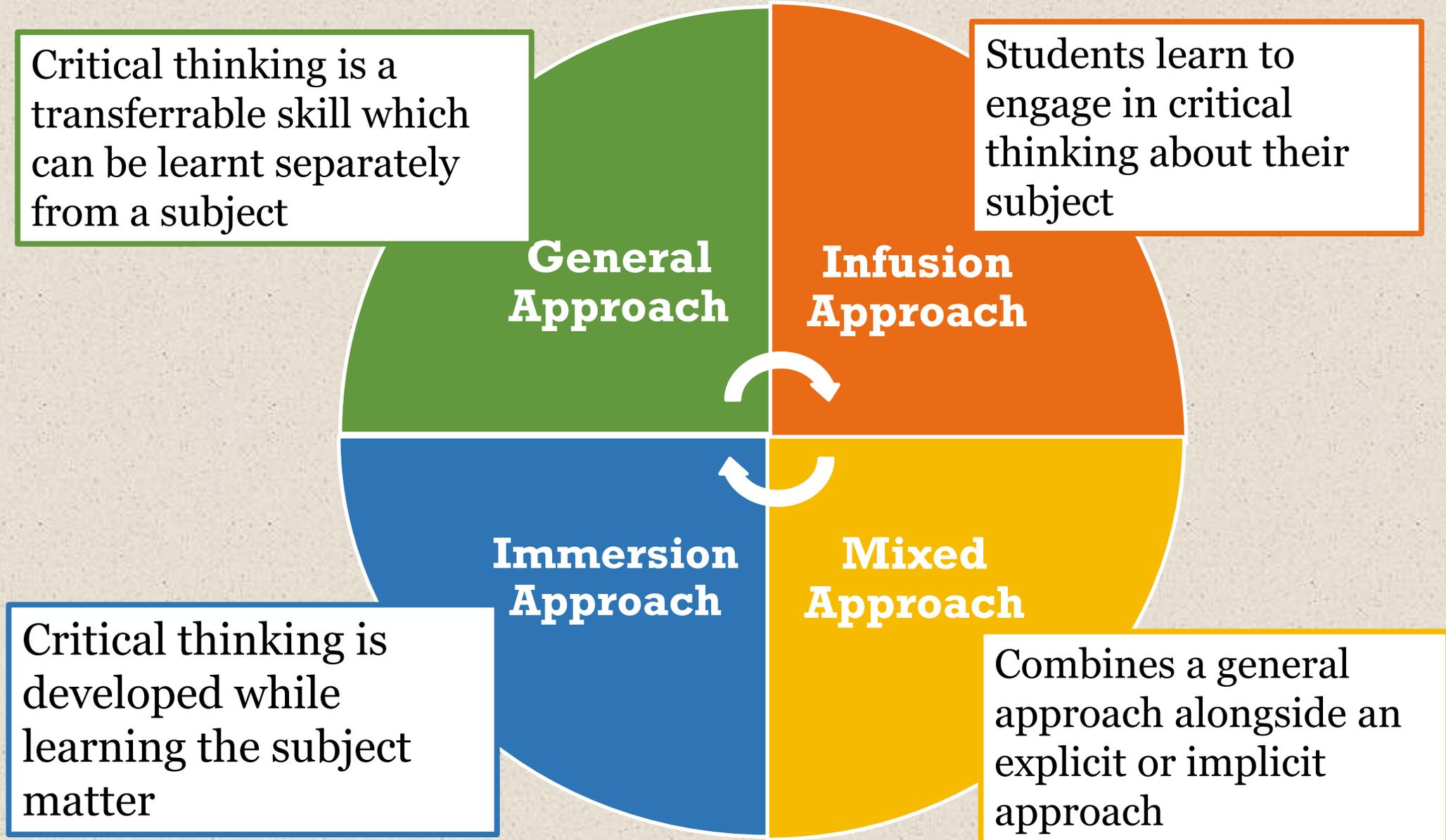


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- **John Dewey's** reflective thinking: “Active, Persistent, Careful consideration of any belief”
- **Bloom's** taxonomy : “Knowledge, Comprehension, Application, **Analyses, Synthesis and Evaluation**”

Approaches to foster critical thinking



Infusion Approach

The infusion approach is an explicit approach to critical thinking that, in principle, believes different subjects have different perspectives towards critical thinking and therefore the critical thinking sub-skills will be different across subjects

Infusion

'Sustained'
content-based

This approach has helped
students to 'develop a
good understanding of
critical appraisal as
analysis and evaluation'

Approach

Process-genre
writing
approach for
thinking

The process-genre approach
promote critical thinking,
focus on criticality in an
academic writing course

Immersion Approach

The immersion approach focuses on developing critical thinking skills within a subject.

When an immersion approach is adopted, lecturers and tutors teach the subject matter but challenge students with that subject matter.

Immersion

Corpus-based
approach

A practical approach to
break the task into smaller
chunks so that students do
not feel it is too
challenging or daunting

Approach

Simulation
/game-based
approach

Students assumed different
roles to defend their
position, disagreeing with
and persuading each other

Mixed Approach

This is normally divided into two parts

|
1st part
↓

Teaching students the
critical thinking
(general approach)

|
2nd part
↓

Teaching and applying
the critical thinking to
the subject

Mixed approach is proven to be most effective

What can teachers do to foster critical thinking?

Teachers engage in reflection based on
observed practice of critical thinking

Teachers experience critical
thinking in their own course

Teachers design a programme/ lesson to
promote critical thinking

Teachers conceptualise in their own way what
critical thinking is and how to promote it

THANK YOU !!