

Thinking skills

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Thinking skills

- What is 'thinking'?

Thinking skills

- Information processing
- Reasoning
- Enquiry
- Creative thinking
- Evaluation

Types of thinking

- Critical
- Creative

Critical thinking

‘Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to do or believe.’

Robert Ennis

Creative thinking

- Help students' minds do new things
- Help them to be creative, inventive and to discover new things
- Develop humour, wonder and imagination

Tools for effective thinking

- Background knowledge
- Critical concepts and vocabulary
- Criteria for judgement
- Strategies
- Habits of mind
- Thinking skills include information processing, enquiry, reasoning, creativity, evaluating

Sharon Bailin
Simon Fraser University, USA

Developing thinking

- Shared thinking sessions
- Listening and questioning
- Considering and weighing up evidence and exploring alternatives
- Best done through public discussion and collaborative work
- Teacher models thinking

Six ingredients for the thinking classroom

1. Appropriate climate for thinking
2. Immersion in language
3. Deliberate pacing
4. Active experience
5. Community of thinkers
6. Reflection

Developing thinking skills

- Classifying, selecting and sorting objects, ideas and concepts
- Development of organising and memorising skills
- Mind maps, aide memoirs, signs, symbols and information grouping
- Expose students to extended work and so allow thinking skill development

Developing thinking skills

- Decision making
 - Defining the situation
 - Stating the goal
 - Generating ideas
 - Preparing a plan
 - Investigating alternatives
 - Taking action
- Compare and contrast situations and alternatives

Developing thinking skills

- Raise students' awareness of how they think
- Involve tasks centred around
 - Creative thinking
 - Lateral thinking
- Research
 - Problem finding
 - Problem solving
 - Discussions
 - Debate

Further resources

www.londongt.org/etasc