

Thinking Skills Environment

Rev	Description	Approval	Date
1			020209

Creative Thinking

- Brain storming
- Divergent thinking
- Exploring, generating ideas
- Stimulate curiosity

Questions

- Logical Sequential
- Open ended
- Listening is the first step in questioning
- Provocative
- Engage
- Encourage higher order thinking



Critical Thinking

- Analyzing the past
- What evidence?
- What is the authors purpose?
- Convergent thinking
- Skepticism is a virtue

Learning environment

- Values
- Vocabulary
- Make thinking visible
- Don't look to blame
- Incremental learning
- Learning from mistakes
- Learning is collaborative
- Excitement/enthusiasm
- Wait 30 sec.
- Let students know how to succeed (rubrics)

Meta-cognitive reflection

- What do I want to understand?
- What have I learned?
- What do I still need to learn?
- Provide feedback for reflection
- Regulate ones behavior

Create your thinking Strategies:

- Break problems into small chunks and study them well.
- Look to make your approach more efficient.
- Think of strategies in "gathering, organizing, analyzing and making conclusions.
- Begin with the things that are simplest to understand and move to the more complex.
- Never to accept anything as true that you do not clearly know.
- Be complete in both your work and reviews that nothing is omitted.
- Look at issues from a system view with inputs, outputs, processes and feedback.

Descartes, Discourse on Methods

Creating an environment that fosters and values thinking

When we honor kids' thinking, they learn that their thinking matters. Students and teachers feel free to take risks as learners when they know their thoughts, ideas and opinions will be treated respectfully by others. The room arrangement mirrors the focus on learning and thinking with meeting spaces for small groups, a comfortable spot where the large group can gather, and desks or tables in clusters to promote conversation and collaborative work.

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