Getting students to 'think critically' as part of their 'learning process'

By

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The Five key questions

O What is not critical thinking?

O What is critical thinking?

O Is critical thinking currently one of our core competences as a teaching, learning and research institution?

O If not, why is it important that it becomes one of our core competences (or better still our distinctive competence)

O What strategic approaches are available to drive CRT into the fabrics of Covenant University

What is not critical thinking?

- It not a talent
- It not necessarily sitting for long hours to think
- It is not an enemy of creativity
- It is not accumulating information
- It is not restricted to particular subject area

What is Critical Thinking?

O Several definitions consistent with each other

 "CRT is thinking about your thinking while you are thinking in order to make your thinking better". Richard Paul

O Recall that thinking = reading, writing, speaking, and making conclusions)

O Improvements based on intellectual standards that assess thinking

What is Critical Thinking?

O To think critically is to impose discipline on our thinking

O It is a way of thinking about whatever is presently occupying your mind so that you can come up to a best possible solution

O A critical thinker – identify, analyze, evaluate, solve problems systematically rather than by intuition or instinct.
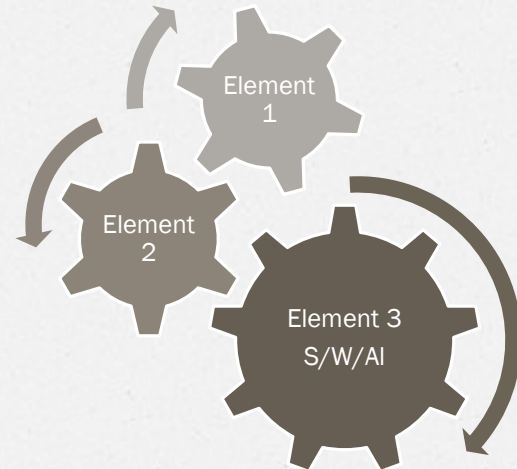
What is Critical Thinking?

O All of my PG students corroborated the findings by Philip Consulting in 2014

O " …foreign university graduates are now preferred by employers especially in the oil and gas sector because most graduates from Nigerian universities grossly lack critical and analytical skills"

What is Critical Thinking?

Examples

O Evaluate the overall performance President Buhari in the last one year. The Regular (intuitive or instinctive response): He has not well at all........the end

O Hebron wardrobes
O Statement by FLOTUS
O The MD and a junior staff

Element 1

Element 2

Element 3
S/W/AI

Is critical thinking currently one of our core competences as a teaching, learning and research institution?

O A competitively important internal activity that an institution performs better

O Distinctive competence

O Is critical thinking a core competence of faculty, staff, graduates, post graduates and undergraduates students

O Persons engaging

Why is it important that it becomes one of our core competences (or better still our distinctive competence)?

Major reason:

Central to our competiveness and profitability as a research, teaching and learning institution rather than peripheral

(ReCITe).

O essential role in innovation, which is important for solving the scientific and technological problems that the world faces in the 21st century.

Why is it important?

O Vanderbilt University traced low research output to inadequate critical thinking

O After tracking 1,586 students in a 20 year longitudinal study

O The study found that critical thinking controls the number of patents that employees with STEM (science, engineering, technology, and mathematics) degrees produced

Park, Lubinski, & Benbow, (2008) published in Psychological Science.

Why is it important?

O Contributes to leadership effectiveness.

In a review article in the journal of Current Directions in Psychological Science, critical thoughts are among the strongest and most consistent predictors of performance across academic and work settings (Kuncel & Hezlett, 2010)."

O Invariably, poor critical thinking contributes to poor leadership effectiveness

Why is it important?

O Furthermore, people with high scores on a critical thinking assessment are less likely to show biases in thinking common to many people, based on a study published in the Journal of Educational Psychology (West, Toplak, & Stanovich, 2008)

O further highlighting the importance of critical thinking and its potential impact on decision quality in multiple areas.

Why is it important?

O People higher in fluid reasoning, a concept closely linked to critical thinking, outperform others in producing creative ideas, and are better able to benefit from strategies that promote creative thinking (Nusbaum & Silvia, 2011). Journal of Intelligence

Why is it important?

Potential to reduce disciplinary cases

O poor critical thinking predicts negative on-the-job actions and outcomes such as excessive use of force, offensive conduct, number of citizen complaints, and at-fault car accidents, according to a study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology (Dilbert, Ones, Davis, & Rostow, 2007).

Why is it important?

Other reasons
O Fake

O Life span

O Trumped

O Competitively superior position

O if the qualities of our life, what we produce, make, or build depends precisely on the quality of our thought, then shoddy thinking is a risk to humanity

What strategic approaches are available to drive CRT into the fabrics of Covenant University ?

O Proposed approaches

1. Student based approach

2. Faculty and Staff based approach

What strategic approaches are available to drive CRT into the fabrics of Covenant University?

O Student based

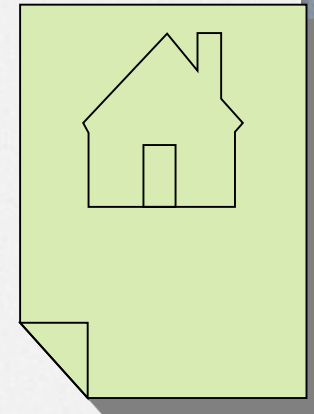CRT programs without intellectual standards are tailor made for mis-instruction

(Ask students, Silent)

O Argue, make inferences ----- assess the inferences
O Use analogies ----- assess the strength and weaknesses of analogies

The idea is not to make inferences but to make sound ones, useful and insightful one

What strategic approaches are available to drive CRT into the fabrics of Covenant University?

O Student Approach (PG/Undergraduate) : GST

O **Academic Skills and Standards Hub**

O Online or real time

Student Approach (PG/Undergraduate)

1. Referencing
2. Plagiarism
3. Academic writing skills – essay and assignment writing, grammar and style, post graduate research writing, writing in science and engineering (technical writing, lab report, case study report etc)
4. Critical thinking skills
5. Reading and note taking skills: reading for understanding, Note making from written text, note taking skills

Student Approach (PG/Undergraduate)

5. Exam preparation skills

6. Oral presentation skills

7. Making the most of lectures, tutorials and group discussion skills

8. Support with time management

10. A weekly ' KEEP QUITE AND WRITE OUTLET'

Staff based Approach

O Single sitting?

O Several workshops ? Headstarts

O Live, grow over the years/lifetime

Staff based Approach

1. Identify the gaps between the ideal university academic skills and the actual practices in our University

2. Administrative commitment to critical thinking

3. An advisory committee to guide the process

4. Take a long term approach

5. Provide ongoing faculty and staff workshops for the next five to seven years

Staff based Approach

6. Link critical thinking to staff and students assessments, mock accreditation.

7. Fund the program

CONCLUSIONS

O With actions in these proposed areas.......................

O CRT ONE OF THE CORE COMPETENCES OF THE CU BRAND (Students, Graduates, Staff, Faculty)

THANK YOU!!!