



# CRITICAL THINKING

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# Our Students

--Learn by memorizing set phrases

**--When conversation deviates from these phrases, what happens?**



"We should be teaching students how to think. Instead, we are teaching them what to think."

Clement and Lochhead, 1980, *Cognitive Process Instruction*.



# CRITICAL THINKING

**So what skills does critical thinking  
help us learn?**



# Skills from Critical Thinking

--applying prior knowledge to new situations

--good decision making



# Thinking outside the box

- Encouraging the use of language through problem solving.
- Logical Thought
- Imagination & Creativity
- Open-Ended Questions (No wrong answers)
- Informed decisions
- Applies to any age



# HOW TO TEACH

- How do we teach Critical Thinking?
  - Using categorization games, allow the students to discover patterns on their own
  - Provide opportunities for students to experience cause and effect
  - Ask the questions “Why?” and “How?”



# HOW TO TEACH

- Provide opportunities to compare and contrast, prioritize, and apply information
- Encourage “thinking outside the box”
- Encourage movement and activity (real life)
- Gather, assess, and interpret information
- Come to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions





# Grouping

- Illicit a group of 5-10 words from your students using a broad topic (animals, emotions, food etc.)
- Then have the students place these words into groups.
- After Ss have placed the words into groups, they must tell WHY they placed them so.
- Vocabulary: "This is a ..." "These are ..."  
"They make a group because all ..."
- Ss must have at least TWO groupings for each list



# GROUPING

- tiger snake gorilla wolf crocodile  
elephant
- Tashkent Moscow Almaty Astana  
Zhezkazgan Satpaev
- Intelligent kind interesting amusing  
good-looking athletic



# Grouping

*What groups can you imagine?*

Dog, Onion, Apple, Table, Sun, Cat, Carrot,  
Lion, Tomato, Lamp, Orange, Chair, Cherry,  
Moon

Soap, Speak, Duck, Like, Bag, Are, Ocean, Bee,  
Uncle, Play, Book, Pine tree



# **Two Possibilities:**

**Dog, Onion, Moon**

**Ocean, Bee, Bag, Pine tree**



# Open-ended Questions

**Can there be a wrong answer?**



# Prioritizing and Ranking

You will be on a desert island for a long time. You may only take 5 things from the following list. What things would you choose? Explain why you would choose them.

A Knife

A radio

A ball

A picture of your family

A compass

A blanket

A box of matches

A map

A tent

A musical instrument

Your favorite book

A hammer

A rooster and a hen

Seeds

A pet





# GAMES

# FINDING WORDS

- Teachers write scrambled letters (10 or more) on the board.
- Students receive a time limit to make as many words as possible with the available letters.
- Variation: Students can only use each letter once.





R K Qu W E M F I S T



# MAKE A LIST

- Ten things that are bigger than you
- Other possibilities:
  - things that are expensive
  - things that are red
  - things that are far away




# ODD MAN OUT

- Ss are to find the item that does not belong in the given group. Then explain **WHY** they chose that one.
  - CLUE: There is actually not one correct answer! The goal is to have students use language in a persuasive way.
- **man woman child cat neighbor thief**
- Other possibilities:
  - apples oranges kiwis melons bananas
  - hat coat boots scarf gloves socks
  - shaskyk sausage hamburgers chicken monty



# WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?

- What would happen if...
    - ...a UFO landed in your town?
    - ...everyone went color-blind?
    - ...men could have babies?
    - ...a woman became president of the country?
    - ...the government gave every citizen a new car?
  
  - This game helps students to use conditionals in a way that is more interesting than repeating a grammar structure.
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# WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

- What would you do if...
  - ...Madonna came to town?
  - ...you were being chased by a tiger?
  - ...you couldn't drink tea?
  - ...your best friend moved to Italy?

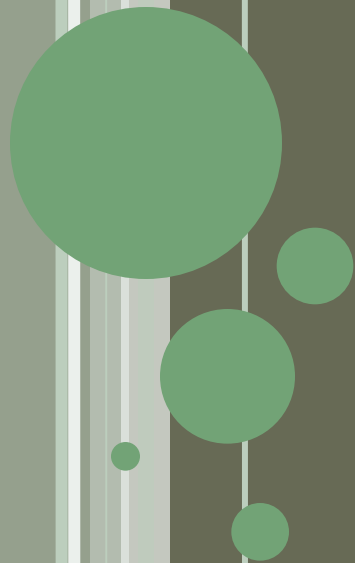


# WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

- Why would you...
  - ...eat a piece of paper?
  - ...jump out a window?
  - ...dye your hair green?
  - ...lie about your name?
  - ...marry a man you've never met?



# SELECTING A RECIPIENT



You are on the Board of the main hospital in Astana—the only hospital in the country to do heart transplants. The hospital has just gotten a new donor heart. There are six patients on your list needing a new heart, but you only have one. Your group must select the recipient and give an acceptable explanation to those you did not select.





# INFORMATION GIVEN

- Gender
- Marital status
- Contributions to society
- Goodness of the candidate
- Number of others who depend upon them
- How they got their heart disease



- How will you choose?
- What information will you use to reach your decision?



**Patient A** is a woman who is 45 years old. She is the only person in the oblast who can teach blind students. She is unmarried and lives with her widowed mother and several cats. Her heart was damaged from a disease that she caught from one of her blind students.



**Patient B** is a famous rocket scientist. He is the most intelligent person in the nation. His great engineering has made it possible for our country to participate in the world space program. He is 55, married to a woman who has lost her hearing. They have one son, 12, who is unable to walk. This man's heart disease was inherited.



**Patient C** is a man who is a brilliant politician. He has transformed our country into a democracy and has assured us all that he will see that we keep all of our rights. He is 42, married, and has five children. He got his heart disease from overwork.



**Patient D** is a beggar on the street because her husband has run off with a dancer and moved to Brazil. She is 34 years old and has six children, but she looks much older because of her heart disease. Her illness comes from an infection caused by poor hygiene.



**Patient E** is a 19-year-old new mother. She is unable to speak but loves her new baby. She is unmarried and lives with her mother. She got the disease which infected her heart from unclean procedures in the maternity hospital.



**Patient F** is a rock star. At 25, he is at the top of his profession. He promised to write a song for you if you select him as the recipient. He needs a transplant because he used a lot of cocaine and it damaged his heart.





# THE SIX PATIENTS

- Teacher of the blind
- Rocket scientist
- Politician
- Beggar
- Young mother
- Rock star



Who will you choose?

