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ITSE 1450

Professor Alonso

Projects 1 Question 4

Explore the Critical Thinking Community website at criticalthinking.org. Identify three important topics currently being discussed and describe your findings.

Professional Development in Critical Thinking

The text emphasizes that critical thinking is a fundamental educational goal that enhances various other skills and abilities, making it the central hub around which other educational objectives cluster. However, research indicates that critical thinking is often not explicitly taught, and faculty may take it for granted. The text suggests that addressing this issue requires long-term professional development in critical thinking for educators to incorporate it into their teaching effectively.

<https://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/professional-development-in-critical-thinking/433>

Developing Ethical Reasoning Abilities

The article underscores the importance of developing ethical reasoning abilities, emphasizing that ethics should be viewed as a separate domain guiding behavior based on universal concepts and principles. It highlights the need to use shared ethical standards rather than religious or cultural beliefs when addressing ethical issues. Additionally, the article stresses that ethical reasoning requires various intellectual skills and traits, such as clarity, accuracy, empathy, and logicalness, and emphasizes the importance of individual commitment to becoming fair-minded critical thinkers in ethical matters.  
\*This blog was modified from the letter introduction in *The Thinker’s Guide to Ethical Reasoning* by Richard Paul and Linda Elder, 2019. NY: Rowman & Littlefield.

## Why the Medical Model for Mental Health Is Problematic

The article discusses the critique of the traditional medical model of mental health treatment, which heavily relies on pharmaceuticals and medical procedures. It highlights the upcoming 25th Annual Conference of the International Society for Ethical Psychology and Psychiatry (ISEPP) that focuses on critiquing conventional mental health practices and exploring alternative ways of helping individuals in distress while emphasizing informed consent and self-determination. The article also mentions the perspective of critics like Thomas Szasz and Chuck Ruby, who argue against the medicalization of mental health issues and call for more accurate and honest language to describe human suffering.

*Critical Thinking Therapy for Happiness and Self-Actualization*, in press, to be published 2024, copyright Linda Elder.