**Critical Thinking and Reflective Practices (EDU406)**

**Assignment 1 (Fall 2024)**

**Total Marks: 15**

**Topics: 25 - 60**

* **Student id** BC230402103)

**Instructions:**

* **Late assignments will not be accepted.**
* **If the file is corrupt or problematic, it will be marked zero.**
* **Plagiarism will never be tolerated. Plagiarism occurs when a student uses work done by someone else as if it was his or her own; however, taking the ideas from different sources and expressing them in your own words will be encouraged.**
* **No assignment will be accepted via e-mail.**
* **The solution file should be in word document format; the font color should be preferably black and font size should be 12 Times New Roman.**

**Assignment Question**

Q. Describe FIVE techniques of critical thinking that you think are the best ideas. (5)

How do these techniques contribute to enhancing your critical thinking skills?

Justify your answer with an example. (10)

**15 marks**

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**Rubric**

**Q. 1: Describe FIVE techniques of critical thinking that you think are the best ideas.**

1. **Socratic Questioning**: This technique involves asking a series of probing questions that stimulate critical thinking and illuminate ideas. It encourages individuals to examine their beliefs and the validity of their reasoning, leading to deeper understanding.
2. **Mind Mapping**: A visual tool that helps in organizing thoughts, mind mapping allows individuals to break down complex ideas into simpler components. This technique promotes brainstorming and helps identify relationships between concepts.
3. **Analytical Thinking**: This involves examining information methodically, breaking it into parts, and evaluating those parts. Analytical thinking helps individuals assess the credibility of sources and the relevance of information, aiding in informed decision-making.
4. **Reflective Thinking**: This technique requires individuals to think about their own thinking processes. Reflective thinking encourages self-assessment and personal growth by allowing individuals to evaluate their experiences & learn from them.
5. **Problem Solving**: A critical thinking technique that involves identifying a problem, generating potential solutions, evaluating those solutions, and implementing the best one. Problem-solving helps develop logical reasoning and decision-making skills.

**Q. 2: How do these techniques contribute to enhancing your critical thinking skills? Justify your answer with an example.**

The techniques mentioned above significantly enhance critical thinking skills in various ways:

1. **Socratic Questioning** fosters a habit of inquiry, encouraging individuals to explore underlying assumptions and biases in their reasoning. For example, when discussing a controversial topic, asking questions like “What evidence supports this view?” leads to a more nuanced understanding.
2. **Mind Mapping** enhances cognitive organization, allowing individuals to visualize connections between ideas. For instance, when preparing for an exam, creating a mind map of key concepts can help recall information more efficiently.
3. **Analytical Thinking** improves the ability to evaluate arguments critically. For example, when reviewing a research article, applying analytical thinking helps discern the strengths and weaknesses of the study, leading to more informed conclusions.
4. **Reflective Thinking** promotes self-awareness and continuous improvement. For instance, after completing a project, reflecting on what worked well and what didn’t can inform better strategies for future projects.
5. **Problem Solving** sharpens logical reasoning and decision-making. For example, in a group project, employing problem-solving techniques can help the team navigate conflicts and arrive at effective solutions collaboratively