

Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
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Unit 6 - Snippet 133



Practical activity – Tackling a complex argument

Read the text below. First read it quickly, without stopping, to get the gist of it. Decide how similar or different the author's thinking is from your thinking.

Online learning versus face-to-face education

Nowadays, online courses are increasingly popular all over the world. Huge numbers of students take online courses. Universities and colleges offer online education. I think that students need a face-to-face education system. There are three reasons why face-to-face education is better than online study. Students can access their teacher easily, students can connect with classmates, and students can learn a sense of responsibility for their studies.

The first reason why face-to-face education is better than online education is that students can connect with the teacher easily. If students have any questions, they can ask the teacher immediately. They can discuss and share their opinion and suggestions, so that the teacher can give them advice to improve their learning. Connecting easily with a teacher is important to studying effectively.

The second reason is that students can connect with classmates easily. Making friends is one of the benefits of studying inside a classroom. It's true that students can make friends online, but it's not the same. By doing it "person to person", they can know someone better than they do through the Web. In addition, students can learn from classmates.

Opponents of face-to-face education say that an online education is a convenient system because students can spend their time studying or working at home. However, students need to go to school to learn responsibilities similar to those in the workplace. The face-to-face option gives students a sense of responsibility to study. If a student studies online, he/she doesn't have to attend the class at a specific time. Keeping schedules is one of the most important features of the workplace. Students can learn about this responsibility by taking face-to-face classes.