



Language Learning through Critical Thinking

MOOC Camp on TESOL Methodology, Brazil – Fall, 2020

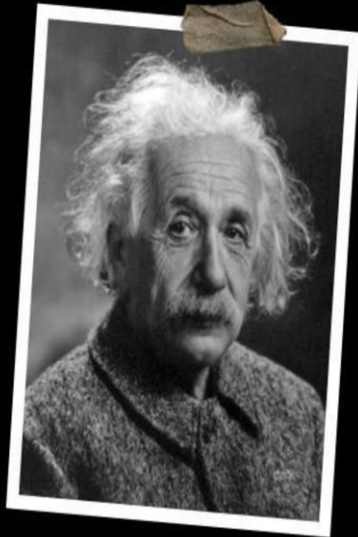
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Language Learning through Critical Thinking

**"Education is not
the learning of
facts, but the
training of the mind
to think."
-Albert Einstein**



What comes to mind
when I say – Critical
Thinking?

How many decisions do you think the average adult makes in one day?

35,000

- what to eat
- what to wear
- what to purchase
- what we believe
- what jobs and career choices we will pursue
- who to spend our time with

Dr. Joel Hoomans - 35,000 Decisions: The Great Choices of Strategic Leaders

Why is Critical Thinking an important part of the classroom and learning?

- ❖ Engages students – offer their opinions or personal experiences
- ❖ Connects them to the material
- ❖ Allows them to experience different perspectives
- ❖ Creates a higher level of thinking

From memory draw a penny

“We’re often convinced that we know something, but upon closer examination, it’s just an illusion. And this, of course, is no surprise to teachers, who often encounter students who overestimate how well they know a topic. “ Youki Terada

Example of Critical Thinking activity to be used
in your classroom!

Classroom Debate

(I know what you are thinking)

- 25 Participants
- Topic: Chosen by Teacher – have article or handout prepared for the class with background knowledge.

Classroom Debate

Participants:

4 – Judges

1 – Chair Person/Moderator

1 – Timer

12 – 6 Speakers for each side of the issue

6 – Audience/Graders

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Debate Procedures

[Brazilian Presentation\Debate Procedures Intro.pdf](#)

Debate Positions

[Brazilian Presentation\Debate Positions.pdf](#)

[Brazilian Presentation\Debate Final.pdf](#)

Debate Rubric

[Brazilian Presentation\Debate Rubric.pdf](#)

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Closing Thoughts –

Start in small ways in your classroom to build on critical thinking.

Easy activities and questions that can be the building blocks for the more advanced activities and questions.

Enjoy watching your students grow by challenging them to think in new ways and to see the world in a fresh, exciting, and unique way!

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Article on Language Learning and Critical Thinking:

“5 Ways to Boost Critical Thinking in World Language Classes”

By Elena Spathis

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-ways-boost-critical-thinking-world-language-classes>

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References:

Hoomans, D. (n.d.). 35,000 Decisions: The Great Choices of Strategic Leaders. Retrieved October 9, 2020, from <https://go.roberts.edu/leadingedge/the-great-choices-of-strategic-leaders>

Spathis, E. (2020, May 11). 5 Ways to Boost Critical Thinking in World Language Classes. Retrieved October 10, 2020, from <https://www.edutopia.org/article/5-ways-boost-critical-thinking-world-language-classes>