Language Learning through Critical Thinking

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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
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
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!
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
References:
