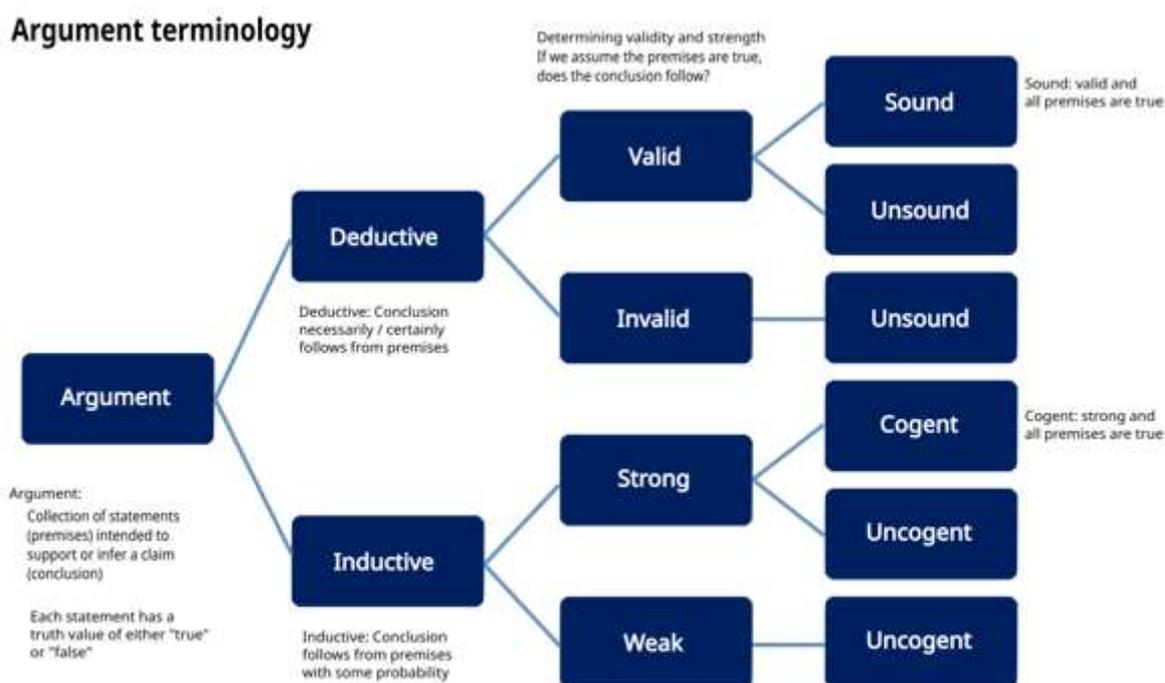


## METHODS OF DEVELOPING CRITICAL THINKING

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**Annotation:** *This article discusses the importance of critical thinking in modern society and highlights effective methods for developing this essential skill. Critical thinking enables individuals to analyze information deeply, evaluate evidence objectively, and make independent and well-reasoned decisions. The article explains the concept of critical thinking, its significance in education and daily life, and practical strategies such as questioning, discussion, problem-based learning, comparison, independent thinking, and information evaluation. Special attention is given to the role of education in fostering critical thinking skills through interactive and student-centered approaches.*

**Key words:** *Critical thinking, analysis, problem solving, independent thinking, education, decision-making*



Source information: Patrick J. Hurley, "A Concise Introduction to Logic, 12th Ed."

### INTRODUCTION

In today's world, the flow of information is extremely rapid and vast, requiring individuals to carefully select, analyze, and interpret information before accepting it. In such conditions, critical thinking has become one of the most important intellectual skills.

Critical thinking helps individuals approach events and information thoughtfully, verify facts, draw logical conclusions, and make independent decisions.

#### The Concept of Critical Thinking

● Critical thinking is not simply accepting information as it is presented, but rather analyzing, evaluating, comparing, and drawing well-grounded conclusions. A critical thinker asks questions, identifies causes and consequences, compares different viewpoints, and chooses the most reasonable option based on evidence.

#### The Importance of Developing Critical Thinking

The development of critical thinking is important because it:

promotes independent and logical thinking;

helps identify false or misleading information;

improves problem-solving skills;

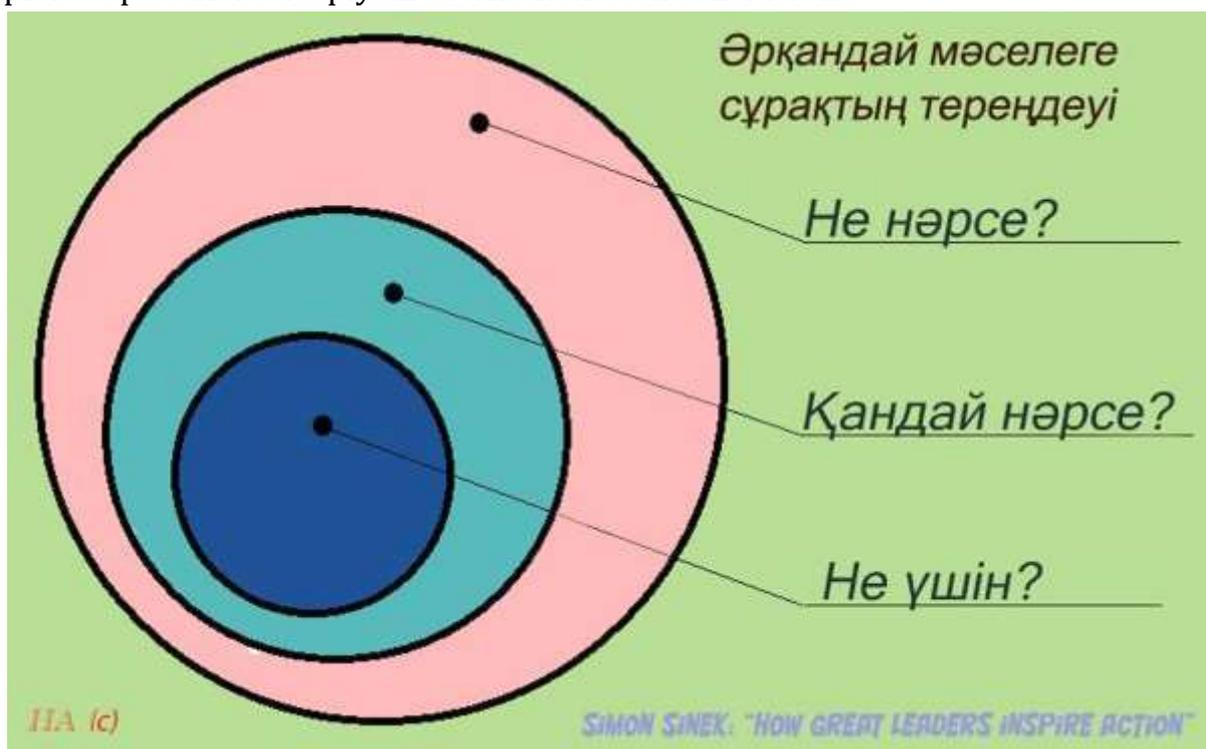
enhances deep learning and understanding in education;

increases social responsibility and active participation in society.

#### Methods of Developing Critical Thinking

##### 1. Encouraging Questioning

Asking questions is one of the foundations of critical thinking. Questions such as “Why?”, “How?”, and “What would happen if this were different?” encourage learners to explore topics more deeply and form their own conclusions.



##### 2. Discussions and Debates

Discussions and debates help individuals compare different perspectives and defend their own opinions with evidence. Through this process, learners develop the ability to justify their ideas and respect alternative viewpoints.

##### 3. Using Problem-Based Learning

Real-life and problem-based situations activate critical thinking. Analyzing problems, generating possible solutions, and evaluating their effectiveness contribute significantly to the development of analytical skills.

#### 4. Analysis and Comparison

Comparing information, identifying similarities and differences, and analyzing relationships encourage deeper thinking. This method is especially effective in the study of academic subjects.

#### 5. Encouraging Independent Expression of Ideas

Creating an environment where learners can freely express their own opinions without fear of making mistakes supports the development of critical thinking.

Accepting diverse ideas and viewpoints is essential.

#### 6. Evaluating Information and Sources

Analyzing information from mass media, the internet, and social networks, as well as checking the reliability of sources, strengthens critical thinking and information literacy.

#### Developing Critical Thinking in Education

In the education system, developing critical thinking requires the use of interactive methods, project-based learning, group discussions, and practical activities.

Teachers should act not only as sources of knowledge but also as facilitators who guide and motivate learners.

#### Conclusion

In conclusion, critical thinking is an essential skill for individuals in the modern world. By developing critical thinking, people become more independent, conscious, and responsible decision-makers. Therefore, applying methods for developing critical thinking both in education and everyday life is of great importance.

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