

A reason to marry critical thinking and teaching of content

“If the mind of the child when learning, remains merely passive, merely receiving knowledge as a vessel receives water which is poured into it, little good can be expected to accrue. It is as if food were introduced into the stomach which there is no room to digest or assimilate, and which will therefore be rejected from the system, or [sit] like a useless and oppressive load upon its energies.”

Edgerton Ryerson, 1847

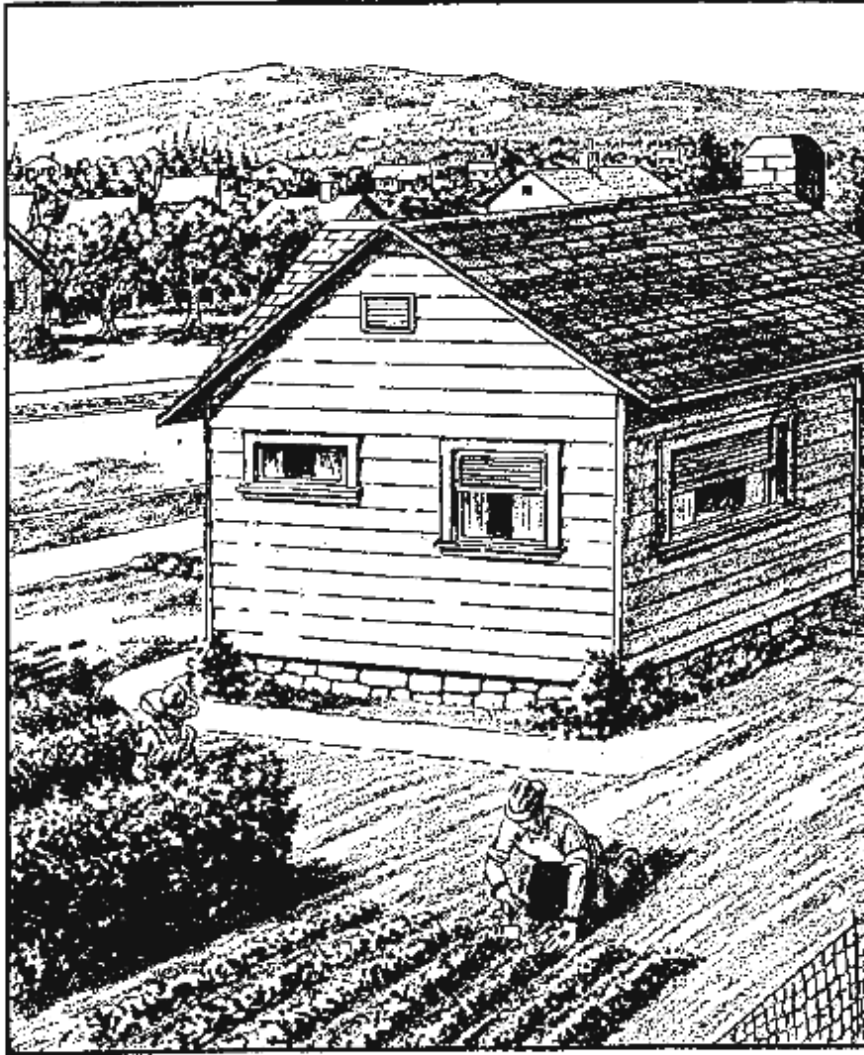
Infusing Critical Thinking In Our Teaching

Garfield Gini-Newman

Senior Consultant, The Critical Thinking
Consortium

ggininewman@oise.utoronto.ca

Adapted by Mike, Tracy, Catherine, and Shira



Think of a Thinker

When you think of someone you consider an effective critical thinker, what attributes do you attach to that individual?



So, what is critical thinking?

- A complex activity, not a set of generic skills,
- Concerned with judging or assessing what is reasonable or sensible in a situation,
- Focuses on quality of reasoning,
- Depends on the possession of relevant knowledge
- Can be done in endless contexts and is required whenever the situation is problematic
- Is effortful but not necessarily negative

Rework the Piece: A Type of Critical Challenge

- Transform a product or performance in light of additional information or an assigned focus, perspective, genre, etc.



Rework the Quote!

- Re-read the quote from the beginning of the session.
- At your tables, rework the quote from the opposite perspective, i.e. if the child is active when learning.
- Write your new quote on a piece of chart paper.
- We will hang these around the room and take a gallery walk to share our thinking.

A reason to marry critical thinking and teaching of content

“If the mind of the child when learning, remains merely passive, merely receiving knowledge as a vessel receives water which is poured into it, little good can be expected to accrue. It is as if food were introduced into the stomach which there is no room to digest or assimilate, and which will therefore be rejected from the system, or [sit] like a useless and oppressive load upon its energies.”

Edgerton Ryerson, 1847

Which One Will You Choose?

