

Staff Development Workshop Evaluation Summary
Critical Thinking
Monday, October 13, 2003

A Staff Development Critical Thinking workshop was held on Monday, October 13, 2003. Four sessions were held, each at one and a half hours. The workshop began at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 3:30 p.m. Dr. Gerald Nosich was the presenter of the workshop. Dr. Nosich came highly recommended and is a presenter from the Foundation of Critical Thinking.

A total of 47 faculty members registered for the Critical Thinking workshop. A total of 42 attended the workshop. A total of 37 returned their evaluation forms out of the 42 attendees.

Workshop Evaluation Results

- All but one participant attended all four sessions.
- 95% of the respondents indicated the first session titled “What is Critical Thinking and Why Do It?” was excellent to good (excellent-54%, very good-30%, good-11%).
- 100% of the respondents indicated the second session titled “Elements and Standards of Reasoning” were excellent to good (excellent-46%, very good-32%, good-22%).
- 94% of the respondents indicated the third session titled “Teaching Strategies for Improving” were excellent to good (excellent-47%, very good-41%, good-6%).
- 97% of the respondents indicated the fourth session titled “How Can I “Assess” My Students” were excellent to good (excellent-47%, very good-35%, good-15%).
- 94% rated the overall workshop as excellent to good (excellent-44%, very good-39%, good-11%).
- 94% of the respondents indicated that they would recommend the workshop to other institutions.
- 80% of the respondents indicated that the allotted time for the workshop was just right.

Overall comments from the respondents indicated that the workshop was very informative and met the stated objective for the workshop. Workshop attendees indicated they would be incorporating critical thinking strategies into their classroom.

The participants provided the following comments.

Which part of the workshop did you find to be the most valuable, and why?

- Working in pairs and groups to see how others think. Able to chat and network with other faculty.
- The theory was the most interesting. The application was more difficult to follow.
- What is critical thinking and strategies?
- Interacting with colleagues - learning what they are doing in the classroom - sharing ideas.
- Discussion of the 8 elements of reasoning.
- Fourth session. Provided application.
- The interactive participative portions because we were involved.
- What is Critical Thinking segment. The eight components of critical thinking.
- What is critical thinking and why do it? It dictated the elements of reasoning quite well.
- Examples of where we fall short on teaching critical thinking. Identifying specific strategies for teaching critical thinking.
- Teaching strategies.
- The discussion between different teaching styles and how to encourage students to ask questions.
- #3
- Strategies for improving critical thinking, because it will help me with lesson plans.
- All is valuable, I will be using all of these ideas as much as I can.
- Session 3 - the most practical application to the classroom.
- Session 3 and 4 - even more practical than other parts but all good!
- Part one - excellent introduction.
- The whole day, especially the morning session.

- How can I "assess" my students' ability to think critically.
- Incorporation into specific disciplines.
- The critical thinking.
- Fellowship with other teachers.
- Teaching strategies.
- I found the 3 parts of critical thinking very valuable - especially as he compared these to problem solving. His use of humor!
- Books and handouts.
- The booklets. Presenter made it clear that I (faculty) can't teach critical thinking to students with limited critical thinking skills or the experiences to critically think with! Do not have the time to group think - can do more one on one.

What part of the workshop did you find to be the least valuable, and why?

- The long part of the lectures. Probably because I ate too much lunch and became sleepy.
- Assessment.
- I found all of it to be valuable.
- Good workshop and highly recommended.
- It was all valuable. Assessment was just not as interesting, but necessary.
- Way too much group work!
- Not entirely practical.
- Every part was helpful!
- None, all was valuable.
- The generation of test questions. This feeling is probably, however, because it came towards the end.
- All had value because I can ponder and apply or continue doing, feeling affirmed.
- The last exercise - did not understand assignment but group did well on own.
- Every part was valuable.
- The handouts, the little books are good.
- I thought all of the sessions were very valuable.
- Content was jumpy - could not stay focused on what presenter was saying. He probably is a nice man but he didn't help me help my students do anymore critical thinking than what I did before the workshop. He really didn't answer his own question i.e. how do I help my students with critical thinking?

How do you think this workshop will help you in improving student learning in your classes? Please explain.

- Yes, I will try to use the elements of reasoning in my class.
- Change approach to material and our expectation of students. Unanswered discussion - analysis in class.
- I will continue to implement these strategies.
- Try to incorporate CT into my classroom.
- It helps me to learn some techniques in giving the students the responsibility.
- Has helped me to refocus my thoughts on different teaching strategies.
- I will teach differently - abandon so much lecture.
- I picked up some excellent techniques for increasing student critical thinking in classroom.
- I plan to require more evidence of student thinking with written responses to readings and student-centered activities.
- I think I will be able to do more critical thinking methods in class and to be able to talk with others about how to do critical thinking in the future.
- On a one-on-one basis with available time.
- I've learned how to improve my methods of questioning and methods to use to promote critical thinking.
- Absolutely I'm excited about all I learned.

- I feel a renewed awareness for inspiring critical thinking! I have some new techniques and will incorporate more vocabulary and references for students to integrate across disciplines.
- Will use in classroom - lecture / critical thinking discussion / lecture.
- Hope so!
- It will help me to help my students learn to transfer insights to new contexts.
- Attempt to apply the assessment to classes, as well as the strategies.
- Yes, especially in discussions.
- It will strengthen my teaching skills in the area of communicating with my students and it will help me develop students listening, reading and comprehensive skills.
- Start class by clarifying the "questions" that will be answered. Use new and creative methods of teaching critical thinking and assessing critical thinking.
- See other comments.

General Comments:

- Good day.
- Thank you for the opportunity.
- Best workshop in 10 years - we actually were given strategies for improving instruction!
- I wish we had gone into more detail. Also I wish we had time for some nuts and bolts questions. Enjoyed his sense of humor.
- Great!
- A satisfying day! We need more like this for effective staff development.
- Great workshop. Thank you. Next time use a different room arrangement for lunch. Food was great.
- Workshop very good but would have been more effective split in two.
- A pleasure.
- Informative, did have difficulty applying all eight elements to problem question (not easy to apply).
- I think we should do this more often.
- Come back again with Critical Thinking, Part II.
- I applaud the efforts of the Professional Development Committee, especially Peggy Womble. The focus on teaching/learning was/is very important. I would like to see more of this, part II.
- Maybe he could come to each department and help instructors with their own unique needs with students/critical thinking. This would work better for faculty.