



Critical thinking and creativity go hand in hand. Critical thinking lets you look objectively at a problem, issue, object, or person and consider the entire picture. Creativity enables you to take that entire picture and look at it differently. While some may think of critical thinking as more scientific, while creative thinking is more abstract, they're more alike than different.

The creative person is likely to be seen as imaginative and emotional, such as artists, writers and philosophers. A critical thinker is more likely to be considered a scientific genius who may be skeptical and lacking in imagination and creativity. Both types are masters of the thought process.

The reasoning process of critical thinking shows imagination to be able to proceed to the next level. Critical thinking is present in creativity by carrying the thought process further than critical thinking logic and presenting it in a creative light. Great critical thinking minds such as Thomas Edison and Benjamin Franklin could never have brought their inventions to light without the streaks of creative thinking that took them beyond logic.

Here are some attributes that are similar in both critical and creative thinkers:

- Interested in exploring new possibilities.
- Challenge assumptions and standard ways of thinking.

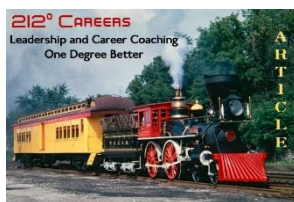
- Imagining alternatives to a situation or problem.
- Have multiple perspectives on everything.
- Use trial-and-error experimentation methods.
- Thinks about new ways of doing things.

The phases involved in critical and creative thinking are also similar. For example, both types of thinking are triggered by a thought that takes the thinking process outside the realm of common thinking.

Then, the thoughts are appraised and clarified, opening the door for ways to explore the idea and how to present it to others. This leads to developing alternative ways to think and then implementing the thinking process through inventions, writing, art, or ideas.

Both types of thinking also require considerable self-confidence and the ability to think of and present multiple ways to view a situation or problem. To promote critical and creative thinking, a person should have an inquiring mind that drives them to read, engage in out-of-the-box thinking, and try things outside of what they usually do.

Critical and creative thinking can complement each other by bringing new ideas and ways of thinking into your life.



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