

DEVELOPING 10-11 GRADE STUDENTS THINKING CRITICALLY THROUGH  
THE SOCRATIC METHOD

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**Introduction:** *In today's complex and ever-changing world, the ability to think critically is an essential skill. Critical thinking allows individuals to analyze information, evaluate arguments, and make informed decisions. While there are various approaches to teaching critical thinking, one method that has stood the test of time is the Socratic method. Named after the ancient Greek philosopher Socrates, this method involves asking probing questions to stimulate critical thinking and encourage individuals to examine their own beliefs and assumptions. In this article, we will explore the benefits of using the Socratic method as a powerful tool for teaching critical thinking skills.*

Methods

The Socratic method promotes active engagement in the learning process. Instead of passively receiving information, students are actively involved in discussing and questioning ideas. By encouraging students to articulate their thoughts and opinions, the Socratic method fosters a deeper understanding of the subject matter. Through dialogue and debate, students are more likely to develop their critical thinking abilities as they grapple with complex concepts and learn to defend their viewpoints with logical reasoning. One of the primary goals of teaching critical thinking is to develop analytical skills. The Socratic method is particularly effective in this regard. By asking thought-provoking questions, instructors guide students to analyze information, identify patterns, and draw connections between ideas. This process of analysis helps students develop the ability to break down complex problems into smaller, more manageable parts. By examining various perspectives and considering different possibilities, students learn to evaluate arguments and evidence critically. Observations were conducted at secondary school 1 in Turakurgan, Namangan with 10-11 grade students. a major advantage of the research is to help students how to foster critical thinking using the Socratic method in lessons.

initially, the researcher conducted a paper version questionnaire for teachers at school asking the following questions.

1. Do the teachers have problems with developing pupils thinking critically?
  2. Do their pupils also have difficulties thing critically in the lessons?
  3. what kind of methods are the teachers using to develop pupils` critical thinking?
  4. do they define the cause of the issue?
  5. what can be a solution for this?
- The purpose of the questionnaire was whether these teachers have above-mentioned issue in

their classes. after getting the questionnaire answers the data was gathered and put in a diagram and explained step by step in the result part. The next step of the research was to observe and interview 15 pupils of secondary school 1 in Turakurgan, Namangan. pupils were given a reading passage a day before for home reading. the next day the teacher will ask questions in the passage. pupils sit around the table and answer one by one. questions must include why questions

**Results** The results of the questionnaire that was given to the teachers showed that nearly all teachers (9) had difficulties with pupils while they were using critical thinking require exercises. 6 teachers answered that they get tired psychologically when they want to develop pupils` thinking critically, they had not found appropriate method for them. additionally, teachers used some different methods to teach them but they did not get positive result from the pupils. The results of method based on reading passage and answering questiong using the Socratic method. The Socratic method challenges students' assumptions and encourages them to question their beliefs. Through a series of well-crafted questions, instructors push students to examine the underlying assumptions behind their arguments and consider alternative viewpoints. This process helps students recognize and overcome biases, fostering a more open-minded approach to problem-solving. By challenging assumptions, the Socratic method cultivates intellectual humility and teaches students to approach knowledge with a healthy skepticism. 8 pupils were taken as a research attendants, 7 pupils were ordinary group. For almost during a month teacher taught experiment group with a new method and ordinary group with traditional method. when comparing two groups, it is shown that the

experiment group got their objectives much more.

**Discussion** The Socratic method emphasizes the development of strong communication skills, both in expressing ideas clearly and listening actively to others' perspectives. Through dialogue and discussion, students learn to articulate their thoughts, support their arguments with evidence, and engage in respectful debate. By actively listening to their peers' viewpoints, students gain a deeper understanding of different perspectives and develop empathy. These communication skills are not only essential for critical thinking but also valuable in various aspects of life. Metacognition, or thinking about one's thinking, is a key element of critical thinking. The Socratic method prompts students to reflect on their own thought processes and evaluate the validity and reliability of their reasoning. By engaging in self-reflection, students become aware of their cognitive biases, logical fallacies, and gaps in their knowledge. This metacognitive awareness enables them to improve their critical thinking skills over time and become more effective learners. Teaching critical thinking through the Socratic method offers numerous advantages. By actively engaging students in the learning



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process, promoting analytical thinking, challenging assumptions, enhancing communication skills, and encouraging metacognition, this approach cultivates individuals who can think critically and make well-informed decisions. As educators strive to prepare students for the complexities of the modern world, incorporating the Socratic method into their teaching practices can be a powerful tool for fostering critical thinking skills that will serve students well throughout their lives.

