

Critical Thinking

in the Age of AI



"Artificial Intelligence ought to serve our best human potential and our highest aspirations, not compete with them." Pope Francis

Critical Thinking - Mini Lesson/Activation Activity

Estimated time for mini-lesson: 10 minutes

Dimension(s) of Critical Thinking or Strategy will be activated in this mini-lesson:

[Critical Thinking - Progression Document](#)

- ☒ Evaluating information and arguments
- ☒ Making connections and identifying patterns
- ☒ Meaningful knowledge construction
- ☐ Experimenting, reflecting and taking action on ideas in the real world
- ☐ Using technology for learning

FIRST - Take Five Minutes to review key words from the [Progression Document](#) of this Anchor Chart (to be created) on Critical Thinking. Better yet, have the students complete the Progression Document.

Describe the activity here: Students are offered two scenarios and must use reasoning and critical thinking to make a choice.

Examples (generated using Gemini A.I.):

Would you rather: Be able to jump from cloud to cloud like a superhero, or swim with all the different kinds of fish in the ocean? (Connects to Science: Properties of Matter & Living Things)

Would you rather: Have a giant garden that grows candy instead of vegetables, or a magical coin that lets you instantly double any amount of money you have? (Connects to Mathematics: Money & Multiplication)

Would you rather: Live in a giant treehouse with all your best friends, or in a cozy underground burrow with all the coolest bugs? (Connects to Science: Habitats & Living Things)

Would you rather: Be able to travel back in time to meet a famous explorer, or travel to the future to see a brand new invention? (Connects to History: Exploration & Science: Innovation)

Would you rather: Speak every language in the world, or be able to understand what animals are saying? (Connects to Languages & Science: Living Things)

Would you rather: Have a backyard filled with friendly dinosaurs, or a pet dragon that you can ride on adventures? (Connects to Science: Fossils & Imagination)

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Possible curriculum connections:

Language

- Oral Communication
- Transferable Skills

This activity could have multiple cross-curricular connections based on the question that is presented. See examples listed above.

What materials will students need?

Link any media necessary for mini-lesson:

What is the teacher doing?

The educator is listening to student responses and encouraging students to expand on their answers.

What are the students doing?

Students are using active listening skills to hear different perspectives. They are generating their own ideas and working on expanding their thinking. Students are developing oral communication skills.

AI connection

(Include when and if possible. Not all lessons MUST have an AI component on the student facing side but the use of AI should be encouraged for teachers during the lesson or when they are asked to create a portion of the lesson.)

Educators and students can leverage A.I. to create their own questions. Students can be tasked with linking questions to specific strands in Math, Science, Social Studies, Arts, Health, etc.

Educators can also create questions based on a specific read aloud or novel being read in class.