

Workshop 5: Critical Thinking and Understanding

Developed by IPSantarém

Short overview:

Critical thinking is essential for analyzing information logically, identifying strong arguments, and making informed decisions. It enhances problem-solving by helping us evaluate potential solutions and select the most effective course of action. Equally important is the ability to communicate clearly, listen to diverse viewpoints, and reflect on our own biases. By applying these skills, we can better understand social inequalities and promote inclusion, leading to more equitable outcomes in society.

Learning Outcomes of the Workshop:

By the end of the workshop VET practitioner will....	Critically analyse information – Participants will be able to evaluate arguments logically and impartially, identifying strengths and weaknesses in the presented information, and applying an objective approach to decision-making.
	Make informed decisions – Participants will develop the ability to make thoughtful choices, considering all available information, possible consequences, and selecting the best course of action for each situation.
	Develop effective problem-solving solutions – Participants will be able to clearly identify problems, analyze different solutions, and implement the most effective ones, especially in the context of social inclusion and combating inequalities
	Communicate and reflect on diverse perspectives – Participants will be able to express ideas clearly and concisely, understand and integrate different viewpoints, promoting mutual respect and inclusion, while reflecting on their own attitudes and biases.

Overview of the Workshop:

Description of the learning activities, including methods and instructions to the TRAINER	Timing (minutes)	Materials and resources (Including links)
---	------------------	---

<u>Introduction and pre-workshop evaluation form (assessing the VET practitioners actual competence level in the area of the workshop)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<u>15-20 minutes</u>	Sign-in sheet Pre-course evaluation (form handed out to the participants)
<u>Presentation with interactive elements</u>	<u>During the length of the workshop</u>	Slides Link to interactive presentation apps to be used
<u>Whole Group Activity [1]:</u> Case Study Analysis Objective: Develop the ability to analyze information logically and evaluate arguments. Activity: Present participants with a detailed case study related to a social issue, such as inequality or social integration. Ask them to analyze the case, identify strong and weak arguments, and then discuss potential solutions. Encourage them to use logical reasoning to back up their conclusions. Outcome: This activity will help participants practice critical analysis, identify strong arguments, and evaluate information objectively.	<u>40 minutes</u>	Slides 10 and 11 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnJ1bqXUnIM https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dItUGF8GdTw&t=51s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Vl4lOweXPU
<u>Whole Groups Activity [2]:</u> Decision-Making Scenario Objective: Enhance skills for making informed and thoughtful decisions. Activity: Create a real-world scenario where participants are presented with a	<u>40 minutes</u>	Slide 12 https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Overview-of-the-implementation-of-COVID-19-vaccination-strategies-and-

<p>complex decision involving various consequences. Participants work in groups to weigh the pros and cons of each option, considering all available information, and then decide on the best course of action.</p> <p>Outcome: This activity will develop their decision-making skills by encouraging them to consider implications and make thoughtful, informed choices.</p>		<p>deployment-plans-14-June-2021.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ajmc.com/view/a-timeline-of-covid-19-vaccine-developments-in-2021</p>
<p><u>Whole Groups Activity [3]:</u></p> <p>Role-Playing Debate</p> <p>Objective: Improve communication, listening, and perspective-taking skills.</p> <p>Activity: Organize a role-playing debate where participants are assigned different perspectives on a topic related to social inclusion (e.g., policies on integration). Each group must present their arguments clearly while also listening to and responding to opposing viewpoints. Afterward, facilitate a reflection on how their perceptions might have shifted during the debate.</p> <p>Outcome: This will strengthen their abilities to express ideas, understand others' viewpoints, and reflect on their biases.</p>	<p><u>40 minutes</u></p>	<p>Slide 13</p> <p>https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/legal-migration-resettlement-and-integration/integration_en</p> <p>https://www.mipex.eu/</p>
<p><u>Optional Activity [...]:</u></p> <p>Problem-Solving Group Task</p> <p>Objective: Foster problem-solving skills and collaboration.</p> <p>Activity: Provide a complex social issue (such as an inequality problem within a specific community) and ask participants to work in groups to identify the key problem, brainstorm potential solutions, and come up with a detailed plan to address it. Have them consider the impact of their solutions on different social groups and how they could promote inclusion.</p>	<p><u>15 minutes</u></p>	<p>Optional Activity</p>

Outcome: This exercise will allow participants to apply problem-solving skills, evaluate the effectiveness of their solutions, and integrate various perspectives.		
<u>Feedback and workshop evaluation</u>	<u>10 minutes</u>	Post course evaluation (Form handed out to the participants)

Additional resources for the trainer to explore:

- Course about “What Are Critical Thinking Skills and Why Are They Important?” <https://www.coursera.org/articles/critical-thinking-skills...>
- Why Critical Thinking is so important? <https://graduate.nichols.edu/blog/why-is-critical-thinking-important/>
- 5 top Critical Thinking Skills and how to improve them <https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/critical-thinking-skills>