

Student Name

Professor Name

Course

Date

The Importance of Critical Thinking in the Age of Mass Media

The 21st century is an age of unprecedented progress, which is characterized by an extraordinary increase in the volume of information flows. Among the large number of news, there are problems in assessing their reliability. It becomes more difficult to determine in which cases mass media are trying to deceive people and use them for their selfish purposes. For this reason, it is especially important to develop critical thinking, which helps to objectively assess a situation or event, questioning the incoming information. Thus, the essay sheds light on one of the main social problems and reveals the features of using reasoning skills to identify fake news.

The era of globalization has brought many adjustments and changes related to politics, culture, and economy. There was a digital revolution that began in the hearts and minds of people. Communication has become not only mass, but also global, public; humanity has changed a lot. Some persons are constantly maneuvering in a huge and continuously growing sea of information. It falls on them, requiring the instant reaction and the right decisions. (Ku et al. 1-2). Absolutely, the current reality requires a new type of thinking – flexible, rational, critical. Without it, a person will drown in a huge ocean of unverified and unreliable information.

The term “critical thinking” is referred to the process of separating useful information from useless. It is also the ability: to identify fallacies in the argument, and to distinguish faith- and emotion-based arguments from reason-based arguments (Athreya and Mouza 29). Eventually, the system of reasoning was laid down in antiquity, it has been used by

philosophical schools and was the province of metaphysics and philosophy as scholars attempted to understand natural phenomena.

However, the thought process teaches people how to think, not what to think. Thanks to it, humanity could see inconsistencies and contradictions, filter out inaccurate facts. Besides, critical thinking teaches to see cause-and-effect relationships, generalize and structure information, argue the position and see weaknesses in another (Silverblatt 71). A person who can competently conduct a discussion and prove his or her point of view is highly valued. Reasoning skills help to evaluate tasks from different sides and helps to avoid mistakes related to inaccuracy or insufficient information.

Moreover, to learn to think critically, a person should conduct the competent analysis and parsing of information, that will allow him or her to evaluate the quality and interpret the data. It is important to remember and understand where the cause and the result may be. Secondly, a person thinking critically can easily detect all logical errors and any inconsistencies in reasoning – it is necessary to use a simple algorithm of critical questions. Thirdly, the skill of argumentation and convincing justification is a key competence of discussion.

Accordingly, it is essential to keep a clear mind and soberly look at the situation; learn how to properly filter information, determine its quality, and not fall for «tricks». In this way, the media literacy education shows humanity how the mass media shapes the perceptions and the beliefs, how it imposes the popular culture, and how it influences the preferences of the individuals (Cetinturk et al. 210). That is why the media literacy education allows people to gain freedom of expression.

In conclusion, the skill of critical thinking requires constant work on oneself. It allows a person to navigate in a huge information flow, doubt, and ask a lot of questions, cannot categorically believe anything, think freely, unusual, and unconventionally. It is important to

analyze, double-check the information and not be afraid to look for primary sources, compare them and defend the one's own point of view.

Works Cited

- Athreya, Balu H., and Chrystalla Mouza. *Thinking Skills for the Digital Generation: The Development of Thinking and Learning in the Age of Information*. Springer International Publishing, 2016.
- Cetinturk, Naim, et al. *Selling Store Scent as a Product: Understanding the Impact on Consumer Perception (Store Atmosphere, Olfactory)*. IKSAD Publishing House, 2019.
- Ku, Kelly Y. L., et al. "What Predicts Adolescents' Critical Thinking About Real-Life News? The Roles of Social Media News Consumption and News Media Literacy." *Thinking Skills and Creativity*, vol. 33, no. 10, 2019, pp. 1-3.
- Silverblatt, Art. "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking." *International Journal of Media and Information Literacy*, vol. 3, no. 2, 2018, pp. 66-71.