



# Essay Writing as a Method of Developing Critical Thinking in a Foreign Language Class at Universities

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## ABSTRACT

This article discusses the peculiarities of essay writing as a method of developing critical thinking in a foreign language class at universities and essay writing helps to learn how to work effectively with information, structure it, filter out questionable data, draw conclusions, solve problems and make the right decisions in a new situation.

### Keywords:

Critical Thinking, Creative, Writing, Skills, The Process Of Reflection

**Introduction:** In modern life, with its fast pace, a person often encounters unpredictable situations that require an immediate response. A huge digital flow, interaction with many sources of information leave their mark on mental work. In such conditions, it is the speed of action that largely determines the success of the individual in voluminous intercommunication activity. In the age of globalization and the formation of information culture, concerning many aspects of human life, the problem of thinking is becoming more and more relevant.

In this regard, the modern education system is focused on finding new ways to improve the quality of education in universities. In the labor market, the determining factors are not only professional knowledge and skills, but also special skills that allow us to talk about the overall development of the individual. The competitiveness of a future specialist directly depends on his personality traits, thanks to which a non-standard approach to solving personnel problems is carried out. Therefore,

for a student in the process of professional self-realization, especially significant qualities are the ability to work in a team, moral stability, creativity, purposefulness, high culture of language and thinking. Speaking about the culture of thinking, it should be noted its importance in the overall communication system

**Discussion:** Thinking as a process of the functioning of consciousness determines the cognitive activity of a person and his ability to identify ideas, concepts, determine the possibilities of their change and application. A person as a person compares his behavior with the behavior of other people, he can question the incoming information, his own beliefs. This is how the foundations of critical thinking are laid, used to analyze events with the formulation of sound conclusions. With its help, the search for original answers to the question posed, independent thoughtful solutions is carried out.

Thus, critical thinking includes the process of reflection, that is, introspection, the ability to reason, distinguish between concepts and operate with those that contribute to the development of analytical thinking. It significantly expands educational, and after qualification opportunities, since the totality of existing knowledge, skills and abilities is replenished with the ability to analyze, reason, and solve problem situations that arise in professional activities.

Critical thinking is of particular importance for students who study a foreign language in depth. It is this process that concerns important aspects of the logical activity of the subject. In the course of training, there is a need for a flexible mind, active memory, planning of one's actions [6,42]. A particular difficulty in the educational process is the mastery of a written language in a foreign language. This skill plays a major role in the work of the conceptual apparatus, because its development provides opportunities for further professional growth. The basis of the preparation of a student studying a foreign language is writing an essay.

An essay is a prose work of small volume and free composition, which expresses individual impressions and conclusions on a particular issue. It is distinguished by the presence of a certain theme, the expression of the worldview, thoughts and feelings of the author. Writing an essay is an extremely effective process, as it allows you to develop the ability to correctly formulate thoughts, use various concepts, structure information, learn to clearly and correctly formulate thoughts, give examples from your own life experience, the ability to argue and draw appropriate conclusions.

In other words, an essay is a creative expression of a person in writing. The essay aims to improve analytical skills. It should teach the student to read texts carefully, find weaknesses in both other people's and personal judgments, work with concepts, and express his thoughts clearly and intelligently. The basis of an essay is the ability to ask the right questions and answer them

**Analysis:** Essay writing is one of the best exercises to develop critical thinking skills. It helps to learn how to work effectively with information, structure it, filter out questionable data, draw conclusions, solve problems and make the right decisions in a new situation.

Learning to write an essay is useful for the formation of a person's critical thinking, as it involves the expression of one's own point of view. Critical understanding of the information received is effective within the framework of the working scheme in the classroom at universities. On them, students get acquainted with the literary texts of foreign authors. The study of each work ends with the obligatory writing of an essay. First of all, the teacher conducts an active discussion dedicated to achieving a complete understanding of the literature read. At this stage, students analyze the studied material. This format of the lesson is also closely related to the development of the information and communication culture of the student.

Writing an essay is subjective, that is, the implementation of a personal assessment, one's own "I". Of particular value is the individual opinion of the author, his originality. Another feature of the essay is devoted to its subject - a single narrow topic. The student is able to fully understand its essence, to analyze a specific problematic issue. In this type of written work, he fully demonstrates the formed skills of critical thinking, introspection, linguistic knowledge. All this involves the possession of the ability to write various types of essays.

There are the following types of essays - philosophical, artistic, historical, scientific-journalistic, literary-critical. By form they are divided into notes, letters, lyrical miniatures, reviews. According to the way of presenting essays - descriptive and narrative, analytical and critical. The characteristic features of the essay, first of all, are confidential intonation, simplicity, ease of perception of what is written. It is equally important that the created text be emotional, have artistic brightness and accuracy.

Today, writing an essay is not limited by strict rules and is free. It should also be

remembered that the text must be harmonious, where all parts are interconnected by a common logic, style and a clear author's position. The structure of the essay is determined by the requirements for it: the author's thoughts on the problem are presented in the form of brief abstracts and supported by evidence. Therefore, the thesis is followed by arguments that are expressed in the form of events, life situations, opinions of famous people and scientists, scientific confirmations and evidence. For greater persuasiveness, two arguments are usually used [2,58]. Questions are usually arranged in ascending order, from weak to strong. Thanks to this, the argument becomes convincing and logical. Thus, the essay has a ring structure depending on the topic, theses, arguments and the logical development of thought: introduction, thesis, arguments, and conclusion.

The introduction is characterized by the formulation of the problem and the indication of different points of view on the problem. The main part is a logical part, the presentation of which can go from complex to simple and vice versa. At the beginning of the essay, the author adheres to one point of view and expresses his own point of view in its favor. Then he presents the opposite point of view and explains why he agrees or disagrees with it.

In conclusion, there are two different opinions about this problem. The author himself indicates the point of view that he personally adheres to. A distinctive feature of writing an essay is the fact that the introduction and conclusion should be focused on the problem. So, in the introduction the problem is posed, and in the conclusion it is analyzed and summarized. The integrity of the work is achieved by highlighting red lines and building a logical chain of statements.

The style of the essay can be different - artistic, emotional, expressive. Skillful use of speech turns, simple, clear and short phrases will create the desired effect. The formation of essay writing skills is expressed in the use of lexical and grammatical constructions. This is what develops the critical thinking of students,

forcing them to look for new ways to prove their own point of view [1,87].

Knowledge of language cliches, introductory phrases that give emotional coloring and expressiveness of the text are a prerequisite for writing an essay in a foreign language. Critical Thinking Technology helps develop these skills by focusing on qualities such as mental flexibility and control over one's own thinking. Students are actively involved in the learning process, which is as close to reality as possible.

**Conclusion:** Thus, writing an essay is extremely important, because it forms students' ability to systematize information, express their thoughts clearly and competently, be able to identify cause-and-effect relationships, argue their point of view, draw conclusions and conclusions according to the laws of logic. A mature person with developed critical thinking is a person who is ready to admit mistakes, set new tasks for himself and look for ways to solve them. To achieve the set goals, the modern personality needs the ability to apply the results obtained to standard and non-standard issues. And critical thinking helps a student - a future specialist - to realize his personal and professional potential.

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