

# Critical Thinking

INTERNATIONAL, INC.



CTI's educators offer workshops, professional development materials, and consultant services designed to promote critical thinking, active and cooperative learning. CTI will deliver training workshops anywhere in the world. We have extensive experience in Central Europe, Central Asia, Latin America, and Africa offering programs on

- 1) active learning and critical thinking
- 2) best practices in teaching reading and promoting literacy.
- 3) the writing and publication of instructional materials.
- 4) policy and teaching practices in bilingual education.
- 5) course development and teaching improvement in higher education

Through CTI training teachers learn to help students:

- Read and listen with increased comprehension
- Engage in insightful discussions
- Work cooperatively
- Write- to-learn
- Conduct community-based inquiries

How?

- By planning active lessons
- Creating thematic units
- Developing authentic assessments that evaluate learning processes as well as mastery of content.

WHY ACTIVE LEARNING & CRITICAL THINKING?

When active learning methods are used:

Students learn more deeply, retain ideas longer, and are better able to use the content of their courses. They are more highly motivated and enjoy school more.

They can relate what they learn to life, and use their learning to solve real problems.

When cooperative learning techniques are used:

Students learn to take initiative in the learning process.

They develop better relations with others, and enhance their social skills.

They learn skills of cooperation-- useful in society and in the workplace.

When critical thinking methods are added:

Students become more insightful, and are better able to think for themselves.

They learn to form their own opinions, and support them with facts.

They learn to listen and read respectfully but critically.

HOW IT WORKS

CTI programs are designed for education professionals who attend workshops and participate in lessons that demonstrate new teaching methods. They practice teaching with those methods under the guidance of experienced trainers, and later use the methods to create lessons for their own classrooms.

In their home institutions, these educators help each other try out these new methods. They think and plan together, focusing on student learning. They match their performance against detailed teaching standards, which were developed by other master teachers.

The teaching methods in the program are intended to be learned over the course of one school year. With further practice during a second year, most participants reach a high level of competence, as they integrate methods for planning and teaching active lessons into their regular teaching repertoire.

Teachers who excel in using the methods may become trainers of other teachers.

DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

The initial workshops are offered by experienced international trainers. From the beginning, local educational leaders—often, these are

Thinking, Reading, Writing, Learning...  
*in your country and around the globe.*

master teachers--are identified for additional training, to prepare them to be workshop presenters and learning facilitators for other participating teachers. These local experts are trained to offer workshops and support participants as they progress through the program.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

CTI's work is supported by a **guidebook** of more than 300 pages, laid out with pleasing graphics for easy reading and later referral. There is also a **leader's guide** that provides workshop leaders with detailed ideas for conducting workshops and supervising the progress of participants as they try out new methods in their classrooms.

INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS

CTI workshops are led by a core of internationally renowned trainers, mid-career professionals. CTI trainers have experience working in dozens of countries for many international agencies, including the Open Society Institute, USAID, Canadian CIDA, the World Bank, UNESCO, and the European Union. Most are university professors with experience as classroom teachers and school administrators, and most have extensive publishing records. Ancillary efforts including research projects, conference presentations, publications, and further grants are frequently spun from initial training efforts.

CTI trainers normally present their workshops in English or Spanish. For workshops in other languages, translators must be provided.

NEXT STEPS

CTI programs are adaptable to local needs and budgets. The proportion of face-to-face training to other kinds of support (CRD-ROMs, Internet, e-mail, written guides) may vary from project to project. The staff of the project can provide assistance and documentation to help those seeking financial support from third parties.

For further information, please contact:

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