



## "INNOVATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS IN SCIENCE 2024"

### ENHANCING CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IN SCHOOLCHILDREN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY-INFUSED ENGLISH LEARNING

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**Annotation:** *This article explores the potential benefits of integrating technology into English language learning to enhance critical thinking skills among schoolchildren. The use of online platforms, educational apps, and multimedia resources is discussed as effective tools for creating interactive and engaging lessons that require students to analyze, evaluate, and apply information in an English language context. The article also emphasizes the use of technology to provide real-world simulations and immersive experiences, which can prompt students to problem-solve and think critically in English. Additionally, the integration of technology is noted to help develop students' digital literacy skills alongside their critical thinking abilities. Overall, the article indicates that technology-infused English learning can create a dynamic educational environment that fosters critical thinking skills in schoolchildren.*

**Keywords:** *critical thinking, technology-infused learning, English language learning, schoolchildren, digital literacy, problem-solving, a crucial role, synthesis.*

#### INTRODUCTION

Critical thinking abilities are crucial in today's environment of rapid change for students to succeed in navigating an ever more complicated and linked society. People who possess critical thinking skills are better equipped to evaluate data, decide wisely, solve issues, and communicate clearly. Students' ability to build and strengthen their critical thinking abilities can be greatly increased by incorporating technology into the English language learning process.

Since it prepares students to handle a wide range of difficult challenges that will inevitably arise in their personal and professional lives, critical thinking is a higher-order cognitive talent that is invaluable to pupils. Analyzing, interpreting, evaluating, explaining, drawing conclusions, and exercising self-control are the cognitive abilities that form the basis of critical thinking. When students think critically, they actively engage in these processes:

- Communication
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Problem-solving



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Evaluation

Reflection

To create environments that engage students in these processes, instructors need to ask questions, encourage the expression of diverse opinions, and involve students in a variety of hands-on activities that force them to be involved in their learning.

Technology as a Facilitator of Critical Thinking:

Schools can be encouraged to think critically by using the many interactive and entertaining tools that technology has to offer. Students can participate in higher-order thinking exercises through educational apps, internet resources, virtual reality, and gamified learning environments. These resources can be utilized to expose students to real-world situations, promote group problem-solving, and test their ability to think critically and creatively.

Technology plays a crucial role in facilitating critical thinking skills among individuals in various aspects of their lives. In today's digital age, the abundance of information available online has reshaped how we process and analyze information, challenging us to think critically about the content we come across.

Technology can help foster critical thinking by providing access to a variety of viewpoints and information sources. People can investigate several points of view on a given subject by using the internet, which encourages people to assess and contrast information in order to develop well-rounded perspectives. People can develop their critical thinking skills and learn to make reasoned conclusions by interacting with a range of viewpoints.

Technology also provides resources and tools that encourage critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. For example, interactive exercises and simulations offered by educational software and online resources motivate users to utilize critical thinking when addressing challenging issues. These interactive resources assist users in developing critical abilities including data analysis, decision-making, and logical thinking in addition to encouraging active learning.

Furthermore, technology enables collaborative learning opportunities that promote critical thinking through discussion, debate, and peer feedback. Online forums, video conferencing, and social media platforms facilitate communication and knowledge sharing among individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering a culture of critical inquiry and exchange of ideas. Collaborative projects and virtual team environments created through technology encourage participants to consider multiple perspectives, challenge assumptions, and think creatively to solve problems collectively.



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In addition, technology supports the development of information literacy skills, which are essential for critical thinking in the digital age.

### Promoting Inquiry-Based Learning:

An educational strategy known as "inquiry-based learning" encourages students to pose questions, look for solutions, and develop their own conceptual frameworks. With the help of technology, inquiry-based learning may be greatly enhanced by giving students access to a multitude of data, tools, and multimedia materials. Through virtual field trips, interactive simulations, and internet research, students can examine many viewpoints, assess the available data, and make reasoned judgments.

Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) is a teaching and learning approach that revolves around posing questions, investigating problems, and seeking solutions through active engagement with the content. It emphasizes critical thinking, problem-solving, and self-directed learning, making it a powerful method to cultivate students' curiosity, creativity, and independence. Here are some key points to consider when promoting IBL:

1. **Creating a Culture of Inquiry:** Promote an environment in the classroom where curiosity is encouraged and asking questions is respected. Provide a secure environment where students can experiment, fail, and grow from their mistakes. Encourage awe and enthusiasm for learning by using interesting activities and challenging questions.

2. **Framing Essential Questions:** Open-ended questions that pique students' interest and encourage inquiry are a great way to start a class. These should be thought-provoking, demanding, and pertinent questions that encourage students to learn more about the subject and build their own knowledge.

3. **Facilitating Student-Led Investigations:** Give students the tools they need to take charge of their education by planning inquiries, carrying out tests, and evaluating the outcomes. Motivate them to investigate other viewpoints, formulate theories, and arrive at conclusions supported by facts. When necessary, offer guidance and assistance, but give students' independence and initiative first priority.

4. **Promoting Active Learning Strategies:** Involve students in debates, group projects, conversations, and hands-on activities that promote critical thinking and active engagement. To enhance their comprehension of the subject matter, motivate them to engage in peer interaction, exchange ideas, and integrate other points of view.

5. **Emphasizing Reflective Practice:** Students should be encouraged to evaluate their own learning, pinpoint obstacles, recognize their accomplishments, and make



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plans for future growth. Include contemplative practices like journaling, portfolios, and so forth.

### Developing Digital Literacy Skills:

As technology becomes increasingly integrated into our daily lives, it is essential for schoolchildren to develop digital literacy skills to navigate and critically evaluate digital information. By incorporating technology into English learning, students can learn how to discern credible sources, differentiate between fact and opinion.

People's ability to think critically is greatly enhanced by technology in many spheres of their existence. The wealth of information available online in the modern digital age has changed the way we process and evaluate information, pushing us to consider the source of the information we encounter cautiously. Digital literacy refers to a particular set of competencies that allow you to function and participate fully in a digital world.

Nowadays, most people believe students to be digital natives, capable of using technology with ease and effectiveness. But teaching them how to be digital citizens is just as crucial. A digital citizen behaves morally and appropriately when using the internet. They need to be able to settle disputes, gather information morally, and engage with society at large in an accountable way. To be digitally literate you need to be able to navigate, evaluate and create using all forms of digital technologies, for example, smartphones, laptops and computers.

The importance of digital literacy skills for students is becoming more and more apparent as technology continues to envelop the daily lives of both children and adults. From social interactions to entertainment, education to professional life, the ability to use technology effectively is now considered essential for modern advancement and success.

### What is Digital Literacy?

The development of current technologies has had a major impact on the modern definition's evolution. Now, the term "digital literacy" more widely refers to literacy that includes technology in general rather than specifying which specific technologies are covered. This lessens the likelihood that the "digital" component of digital literacy will need to be redefined.

### Why is Digital Literacy Important?

The necessity of digital literacy is becoming more and more clear as technology continues to permeate every aspect of daily life. The following list of five justifies teaching pupils digital literacy.

#### 1. Support Educational Progress



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The growing usage of technology in the classroom is one of the main justifications for the significance of digital literacy abilities. In the last fifteen years, there has been an increase in the use of technology in education, with computers, tablets, and the internet becoming commonplace in both K-12 and university settings.

Pupils that possess digital literacy abilities will feel more at ease and self-assured while using these learning environments, whilst those who do not may find their advancement hindered by their incapacity or insecurity when using the relevant technology. Furthermore, since most state-mandated standardized tests are given online, it's critical that students have the self-assurance to concentrate on the subject matter at hand rather than allowing technology to slow them down or divert their attention throughout the exam.

### **2. Increase Online Safety**

Cyber dangers are intricate and dynamic, as malicious individuals or groups are always coming up with new ways to exploit others. While digital literacy cannot shield children from online safety risks, it can provide them with the necessary information, tools, procedures, and resources to assist them safeguard their privacy and safety to the greatest extent feasible.

### **3. Understand Digital Responsibility**

Digital literacy teaches digital responsibility, or the capacity to communicate and consume information online in an ethical manner, in addition to online safety. Students who rely more on technology are more likely to face issues with cyberbullying, copyright and plagiarism, securing reliable information, and acting appropriately while engaging with others. Students who possess these skills become more responsible digital citizens by learning how to comprehend and overcome these obstacles.

### **4. Improves Social Opportunities**

Online social engagement is becoming more and more common, whether we like it or not. To be able to socialize with individuals outside of your immediate area is one aspect of digital literacy. The use of technology removes geographical obstacles to socialization, a shift from the slow-communication that once characterized friendships and even familial interactions. But this expanded social circle also exposes people, particularly the youth, to risky social situations. Gaining proficiency in digital literacy enables students to interact with people online while safeguarding their privacy and security.

### **5. Improve Digital Equity**



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The digital divide is also lessened by digital equity. Despite the widespread use of technology in homes and schools, a significant share of workers who identify as minorities lack basic digital literacy skills. Institutions may contribute to boost digital literacy among underrepresented groups and help these students upskill so they may have more professional possibilities in the future by prioritizing digital literacy in K-12 education.

### **6. Supports Lifelong Skills**

Even though technology is always evolving, students who have a foundation in digital literacy will have the fundamental knowledge and abilities to use a variety of technologies both now and in the future. For example, gaining an understanding of fundamental ideas like input/output, application operation, identifying hardware devices and how to use them, etc., can provide you a foundational understanding that you can use to new and developing technologies.

Summary. It is a good idea to help students develop their critical thinking abilities by integrating technology into their English language education. Teachers may design dynamic, captivating classes that ask students to assess, evaluate, and apply knowledge by utilizing technology. Online tools, instructional applications, and multimedia materials that encourage critical thinking in English-language environments can help achieve this. Technology may also offer immersive experiences and real-world simulations that push students to think critically and solve problems in English. Students can improve their critical thinking skills and acquire digital literacy by incorporating technology into their English studies. Overall, the combination of technology and English learning can create a dynamic learning environment that fosters critical thinking skills in schoolchildren.

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