**What is Critical Reading?**
- Critical reading goes beyond comprehension – it involves summary, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and application of information.
- Critical readers can understand complex text with extended arguments, elaborate structure, subtle relationships and intent, and rich detail and vocabulary.
- Critical readers adjust their reading strategies to fit the purpose for reading, the type of text, and the discipline.

**What is Independent Learning?**
- Independent learners need minimal guidance from others.
- Independent learners are willing to expend intellectual effort to understand information.
- Independent learners have a growth mindset – they believe they are able to learn through hard work and effort.
- Independent learners have a competitive advantage in the workforce and in life.

**Critical Reading is an Essential Skill for Independent Learning**

**Critical Reading & Independent Learning are Valuable in Any Learning Environment**
- Online and face-to-face courses
- Undergraduate and graduate courses
- General Education & discipline-specific courses
- Research/scholarly projects

**Critical Reading & Independent Learning are Essential Skills Beyond College**
- Graduate/professional school entrance exams
- Professional licensing exams
- Job analyses; Application materials
- Workplace reading tasks
- Professional development and advancement
- Informed citizenship; personal decision-making
How Will We Develop Critical Readers & Independent Learners?

⇒ Implementation plans will be based on the research of metacognition – teaching students to accurately assess and regulate their own learning.

⇒ Metacognitive strategies…
  • are effective in developing critical reading skills;
  • are effective at developing self-regulated learners;
  • are practical, concrete, easy to learn, & easy to implement;
  • engage students with course content and increase learning;
  • provide faculty with a tool box of practical techniques from which they can choose as appropriate to their discipline, course, and type of reading.

⇒ Specific implementation plans will be developed over the next year.
  • Faculty professional development and support for teaching are essential.
  • Faculty and students will be asked for input.

Critical Readers & Independent Learners
Make Teaching More Enjoyable!

NEXT STEPS & TIMELINE
1. Create QEP focus statement (su15)
2. Develop implementation plan (f15-s16)
3. Present plan to campus (su16-f16)
4. Submit plan to SACSCOC (f16)
5. SACSCOC EKU visit (s17)
6. Implement QEP (f17-f22)
7. 5-yr report to SACSCOC (s23)

QEP Topic Selection Team
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Cathy Clement (CAS: Social Sciences)
Scotty Dunlap (Justice & Safety)
Jennifer Fairchild (Business & Tech)
Betina Gardner (Library & Noel Studio)
Jaime Henning (Graduate Programs)
Erik Liddell (Honors Program)
Angie Madden (Education)
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Lara Vance (Acad Readiness/Tutoring)
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