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“Critical Thinking: Required Learning for the 21st Century” Reflection

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After participating in this program, please describe three teaching or learning strategies, ideas, tips, etc. you learned and from whom.

I need to foster the idea that students NEED to be asking questions in my class. I can do this by slowing down the questions/answer period, by asking questions and then allowing students to discuss answers with each other. This way, students will feel that their opinions matter, and can feel more comfortable voicing them. Also I really liked the idea that in order to teach critical thinking skills to my students, I need to be a critical thinker myself! This means I should question my own assumptions, ask myself questions and reason out the questions. I can then go with the ideas that work and amend the ideas that don't work.

What strategy from this STARLINK program will you be able to immediately apply to your teaching? How will you do so?

I would like to talk about the elements of critical thinking with my students so that students will understand the concepts of critical thinking. This not only means to define *critical thinking*, but to also point out the ways critical thinking can "go wrong."

Critical Thinking Errors Examples:

- We may not believe the results of our reasoning.
- We may not act on our reasoning
- We may make mistakes in our reasoning
- We may FAIL to ask the right question IN THE FIRST PLACE.

If the program included exercise(s) please include how you accomplished the exercise(s) or how they helped you understand the material presented.

This program asked us to answer the question: "What are some of the important insights that students in your course do not believe even though they may say the right words?" I think one of the beliefs held by many of my math students is that they will never use the ideas and concepts learned in my class. While it may be true that they will not use many of the formulas etc. found in our class, they absolutely can utilize the critical thinking skills that are used to problem solve and reason through the problems we encounter. Math is a subject that can help us get students to confront the world, discuss the world, and think about the world in quantitative terms.

Please indicate in one sentence what area of your teaching methods you feel this program enhanced.

This program really helped me to reflect on my own use of critical thinking in my classroom and the ways I can encourage my students to think critically through the problems we solve. I will enter my classroom now with a better understanding of what critical thinking really is: Critical thinking is reasonable and reflective thinking focused on deciding what to do or believe.