



Elementary Education Is the Time for Developing Critical Thinking Capabilities, Not Attempting to Memorize Facts

All Knowledge by its very nature requires constructive thought

School Administration today has the job of not only helping those children who are behind but also to provide each student with the foundation for knowledge and thinking, providing each student for a future in which he/she will contribute and succeed. If we do not make the necessary changes in today's early education, we will put our children at a competitive disadvantage for decades. It all starts with creating substantive (reality) cognitive thinking capacities during the student's elementary years while brain cells are abundant. Schools today often talk of knowledge as though it could be divorced from thinking, as though it could be offered by one person and given to another in the form of a collection of sentences to remember.

The purpose of Accelerating Young Minds' vital learning programs is to assist school administration, teachers and parents to ensure each student is developing a personalized broad exposure to new knowledge and developing his/her cognitive thinking capabilities as the student moves through the early years.

The AYM approach is not to focus only on teaching the memorization of facts, but instead to provide learning based on real world interactivity while also offering substantive critical and creative opportunities to the student, which can be used in real life, rather than just in the classroom.

AYM guides the student to real places with real world video, photographic images and voice where the student discovers what interests and passions he/she has. The student will discover he/she can make a difference and what they are good at. We stimulate hope, curiosity to learn how to learn, and how to enjoy it – and that, more than any specific body of knowledge, is what they will need to have in the future. Substantive learning multiplies comprehension and insight; lower order rote memorization multiplies misunderstanding and confusion.

The world is changing so rapidly that by the time a student graduates, many subjects from school may already be headed toward obsolescence. The main thing that students need to know is not what to think, but rather, how to think in order to face new challenges and solve new problems and take advantage of opportunities. Having a firm basis in reality is necessary and is equivalent to acquiring effective organizers for the mind that enable each student to think critically and creatively and to weave everything he/she is learning into a tapestry, a system, an integrated whole that provides the necessary structure to maintain critical thinking throughout his/her lifetime.

Critical thinking is not to be devoured in a now and then effort; it is a continuous maturing process provided in all AYM learning activities. It focuses upon that part of our minds that enables us to think things through, to learn from experience, to acquire and retain knowledge. It is like a mirror to the mind, enabling students to take ownership of the mental instruments that drive our learning.

