**Critical Inquiry**

Name

Institution Affiliation

Course

Instructor

Date

**Critical Inquiry**

**What Makes Critical Inquiry Different from Simply Asking Questions?**

Critical inquiry differs from asking questions because it employs a structured approach to challenge assumptions, evaluate evidence, and explore broader implications(Spires et al., 2021). While question-asking is normal curiosity, critical inquiry is more profound. It involves applying intellectual criteria such as clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, and bias in analyzing information and ideas. For example, think of the runner's conclusion in the given lesson about beer cans by the roadside. An example of a simple question may be, "Why are these cans present?"

On the other hand, critical thinking includes asking questions such as, "What biases might one have while making assumptions about these cans? Have I overlooked any reasons that may have contributed to this phenomenon?" It elevates everyday guesswork into a systematic approach to asking questions and assessing the responses.

**Why Is Critical Inquiry an Essential Skill?**

Critical inquiry is essential for students and professionals since it improves problem-solving, decision-making, and critical evaluation of information. In academics, it enhances the concept grasping ability and allows students to create logical arguments. Professionally, critical inquiry assists in decision-making by examining the consequences of a given decision and embracing multiple viewpoints. For instance, as the Foundation for Critical Thinking, critical inquiry enhances individual thinking by deliberately assuming control over the structures present in thinking and applying standards to the process and content (Sharma et al., 2023). This skill is beneficial in decision-making jobs, as many of these roles require decisions with substantial ramifications. Incorporating the Socratic Method, Critical Inquiry makes us think critically, improve and polish arguments, and even question what we take for granted. Therefore, this is similar to the questioning in law, medicine, and other professions concerned with finding the best solutions.

**References**

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