



Microensayo

In what ways can Philosophy help develop critical thinking, and what benefits, both individually and socially, does this relation represent?

¿De qué maneras puede la filosofía ayudar a desarrollar el pensamiento crítico y qué beneficios, tanto individuales como sociales, representa esta relación?

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Abstract

Philosophy learning and teaching are valuable tools for cultivating intelligence and training our critical thinking. Thinking requires effort, and many people run away from it, but questioning, acknowledging, and testing previously held assumptions help us develop a wider and clearer understanding of the world around us. It is not just about memorizing concepts, but putting them into practice, by learning how to argue; not to win, but to progress. The most important lesson is to avoid indoctrination, as imposing an ideology or belief prevents true philosophical thinking, which is about pursuing knowledge and truth. In this reflection, I will connect what I have learned about philosophy with how it helps students (including myself) to reason, debate

and make smarter decisions in both educational and daily life contexts.

Keywords: Philosophy, critical thinking, questioning, understanding, decision-making.

Resumen

El aprendizaje y la enseñanza de la filosofía es una herramienta valiosa para cultivar la inteligencia y entrenar nuestro pensamiento crítico. Pensar requiere esfuerzo, y mucha gente huye de él, pero cuestionar, reconocer y poner a prueba suposiciones previamente aceptadas nos ayuda a desarrollar un entendimiento más amplio y claro del mundo que nos rodea. No es sólo de memorizar conceptos, se trata de ponerlos en práctica, aprendiendo cómo discutir; no para ganar sino para progresar. La lección más importante es evitar el adoctrinamiento, ya que imponer una ideología o una creencia previene el verdadero pensamiento filosófico, el cual persigue el conocimiento y la verdad. En esta reflexión conectaré lo que he aprendido sobre la filosofía con el cómo ayuda a los estudiantes (yo incluida) a razonar, debatir y tomar decisiones más inteligentes tanto en el contexto educativo como el de la vida diaria.

Palabras clave: Filosofía, pensamiento crítico, cuestionamiento, entendimiento, toma de decisión.

Recibido: 02 de abril de 2025
Aceptado: 13 de mayo de 2025

Philosophy learning and teaching is an especially valuable tool for cultivating intelligence, and thinking requires and demands an effort many run away from. But I think it really helps train our critical thinking, which implies to question, to acknowledge and test previously held assumptions, to evaluate, examine, interpret information to the point we

can see “both sides” (if there's any), or the consequences of our decisions. I would put it like having a wide and clear understanding and vision of the active context, and learn how to argue without the need to win, but to progress even if the other person or side does not want to.

But the most important thing I think I have learned so far is to avoid indoctrination, because if we do this, we are imposing an ideology, belief, or way of thinking, which does not allow someone to develop their own philosophical thinking, which involves pursuing knowledge and searching for the truth. Also, to understand our surroundings, and maybe even build who we want to be.

But just learning this concepts or memorizing them is never enough, so we have to put them into practice, as a quote I saw in the reading that says “The proof of the pudding is in the eating” (Martín, 2021, p. 36), this basically means that putting into practice or experiencing something is the best way to see if it's accurate or good enough as the “theory” says it is.

I can relate or connect all of this I have learned with how this helps me or students in general, because I think it actually helps practicing our reasoning skills, arguing or debating, and evaluating different perspectives, as I said before, in a wide and clear way.

I personally think it has helped me (from what I know and learned) analyzing other people's way of making arguments, of defending their point of view, which is totally not wrong, but sometimes, the way we defend it might not be the best one. Also, making strong points, like focusing in just one point of view of things and just thinking for themselves, and it's not like I am saying that my way of thinking is better, but I have just seen that many people just don't or haven't developed this critical thinking, and it makes their way of arguing or stating perspectives not in a correct way, because critical thinking also involves solving problems and make smart decisions.

I can relate all of this with me, as a student of Entorno's high school, because we are different here, like methods are different. This means that it's not just “get in class, sit down, shut up and write what I say”. For example, instead of regular classes we have workshops, we participate, we ask questions and I think asking questions is a MUST here, even if it's something we may think it's silly, but for us maybe it's important to know, instead of just accepting everything we are told as if it was the absolute truth. This means to have a critical spirit, which is to

always be curious and open minded to new things and questioning everything and testing them, like postmodern teenagers we are and members of a new generation. And it would not only help us in the educational context or just in high school, but also in our daily life as adults we are becoming, as we see, understand and exist in a smarter way as we solve problems, make decisions, etc.

So let us say that we, as modern teenagers, have more freedom to choose what and how to do something, like what we want to be, but that can be a little bit dangerous. I learned today in the Evolution subject that the frontal lobe of our brain fully develops until we are 20 - 21 years old, so meanwhile our way of thinking, of seeing the world, making decisions, is not always the best.

I relate this as, for example me, that I am still choosing what to do and I'm 17 years old and young. On one hand, I have the opportunity of having a family business and it's great, sustainable, but I could easily say "I want to be a fashion designer", and leave aside everything else because I wanted to try this other option, like the frase "Se pierde el tren de la vida por darse un paseo en bici" (Martín, 2021, p. 36). And I think this is super important to take into consideration in my age or when deciding what to do or study (fashion school still tempts me, though).

In conclusion, philosophy helps develop critical thinking by developing the skill to rationale and to think, make rational decisions, and solve problems in a smarter way.

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How to cite this article

González Navarro, D. y Salcedo, F. (2025). In what ways can philosophy help develop critical thinking, and what benefits, both individually and socially does this relation represent? *Tsaloa - Revista Multidisciplinaria de Educación Media Superior*, 2, 69-73.
<https://revistas-entorno.net/tsaloa/article/view/24>



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