

Advice for Teaching Critical Thinking



African Community Guidance



**MAKE
SURE IT
ADDS UP**

Background

In Bradford we have a large number of people from black and African heritage which as a whole form in itself is a diverse community. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities are potentially one of the most vulnerable communities when it comes to the spread of misinformation. This has been evidenced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Helping this community to think critically can help protect them from hurt and harm and reduce the impact and effect of rumours and misinformation.

It is useful to have resources which will help to bring critical thinking to people from black communities and people of African heritage within the Bradford District.

Summary

Ensuring that the Bradford African Community is connected, involved and appreciated within the Bradford District is key to helping increase involvement with critical thinking and any associated training. Acknowledging the community and the impact and involvement it can have with the whole community's activities, can help critical thinking to be more impactful and reduce the harm and hurt caused by rumour and misinformation.

When working with the African community, create an open communication environment for those who take part so they feel free to share their feedback, interesting ideas and to give criticism. Generate connections which encourage dialogue and give people access to opportunities to participate and share learnings about critical thinking within their own community.



Things to consider when teaching Critical Thinking to African Communities.

1

Many people from the African community have experienced extreme circumstances and trauma in their country of origin.

2

African Communities, Refugees, Migrants, Asylum seekers, can come from parts of Africa that are failed by their respective countries and governments. Others may have been smuggled, trafficked and tortured before they reach safety in the United Kingdom.

3

Individuals who were failed by their country of origin Government need more support and time to trust again and restore trust in any other government. The challenge here is that they live in constant fear and stigma based on their personal experience.

4

For those trafficked and smuggled, their lack of trust is higher to people around them caused by being betrayed by those people who pretended to love and help them.

5

African people may have come from an area of conflict in Africa and they may have experienced violence, fear, and extreme circumstances. They may have lived in refugee camps with no education at all and have arrived in the UK with help from the United Nations.

6

African people may have come through a desperate journey through the Libyan coast, as people continued to flee their countries due to conflict, human rights violations, persecution, and poverty.



Consider that African people may have experienced any of the following

- **Death of parent or family members due to conflict.**
- **Witnessing violence, killing, torture or injury.**
- **Bombardment/shelling from war areas.**
- **Witnessing a parent fear and panic due to war.**
- **Physical injuries from conflict.**
- **Separation from home, family and friends.**
- **Disruption of normal routines and a functioning society.**
- **Transitioning through several countries.**
- **Racism and abuse before reaching the United Kingdom.**
- **Separation from parents and other family members.**
- **Destitution and living in refugee camps.**
- **Risks and exposure to exploitation.**
- **Settlement and schooling in other countries before arrival in the UK.**
- **Diversity of languages, cultures and traditions and countries of origin.**
- **Different experiences in their countries of origin and different migration journeys.**
- **Varied abilities to cope with adversity.**



Critical thinking should have a focus on the LGBTQ+ Community

In the UK we all have the right to be treated equally, regardless of our gender identity or sexuality. The challenge for many Africans is that being gay, bi-sexual, or transgender is illegal and a crime in many African countries.

Create the circumstances where all of this background can be taken into consideration and where history, prejudice and experiences can be openly explored. Keep a focus on the benefits of critical thinking when it comes to rumour and misinformation. Look at the overall vision for a community in the Bradford District where everyone can feel safe and belong, and seeing critical thinking as a tool to create greater understanding and harmony.

Reminding African people to follow the law of the county they are living in is very vital and emphasizing that the law is there to protect everyone and help people to live in peace and harmony.

Topics on “Love is a Human Right” might help on educating individuals on critical thinking and on equality and diversity, while taking into account their views and where these have being learnt or originated.



It is important to consider the media narrative

- African people may have a lack of knowledge in media literacy.
- It is important to teach African people how to **read the media**.
- Focus on understanding the credibility of sources and where information comes from and understand the motive.
- African people may not have the learned experience or the developed critical skills to question whatever is published in the media.
- Teach how to understand the ideology of the person publishing the story.
- Teach safety and how to use digital platforms which are currently being used daily.



Consider inequality faced by Black and African people

1

During the Covid-19 pandemic it has been highlighted there is injustice and unfairness that exists towards African people.

2

African people are working in dangerous front line jobs or doing more than one job (possibly not according to their level of education)

3

African people are working zero hour contracts and not being able to socially distance or have proper PPE.

4

African people are working on the front line, such as being a nurse, carer or bus driver.

5

There are underlying health conditions that are common in the black community.

6

African people might have a poor condition of living.

7

African people face systematic issues that raise barriers to inclusion.

8

Colonialism has played a major impact on the lives of everyone and significantly on the lives of people from African heritage. It is important to include de-colonisation and constructive conversation around critical thinking in this area which is fundamental to many issues faced by black and African people.



Please note:

Consider when African people don't have a lot of opportunity for their self within their community or within their family, then they are much more open to believe single stories and misinformation and rumours.

Enhancing communication, teaching them to analyse and build evidence for any given premise will help them with critical thinking. It is important to encourage members of the community to become more reasoned and balanced problem solvers.

Finally, to be able to participate fully, we need members of the African community to be and feel like they are a part of the system.

Many Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers are highly resourceful and resilient despite their experiences. There are many refugees and migrant communities who are ready to offer their expertise that can be offered by any other nationality if they get the right training and the same opportunities.

Remember to share with African communities:

"If we retweet the rumours and spread misinformation, we are also guilty".

#MakeSureItAddsUp



