

# **CRITICAL THINKING: A CONCEPT ANALYSIS**

by

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## DECLARATION

I declare that **CRITICAL THINKING: A CONCEPT ANALYSIS** is my own work and that all the sources that I have used or quoted have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references and that this work has not been submitted before for any other degree at any other institution.

**SIGNATURE**

(Mihloti Mashele)

**DATE** .....

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### **ABSTRACT**

Critical thinking ability is imperative for nurse practitioners in the multidimensional unfolding health care arena. Consensus as to what critical thinking entails has yet to be articulated. This non-empirical study thus set out to clarify the concept "critical thinking. Walker and Avant's (1995) proposal for conducting a concept analysis was used within the qualitative research paradigm. Literature selected from the fields of education, philosophy, nursing and psychology was consulted as the main source of data. Thematic and theoretical sampling of literature were also embarked upon during the later stage of the research to add density to emergent categories and themes. Categories were organised according to the Strauss and Corbin (1995) paradigmatic model; indicating the antecedents, disposition of the thinker, attributes and critical attributes, and outcomes of critical thinking. The findings indicate that critical thinking is a complex, multidimensional, dynamic, existential and context dependent mental operation. The essence of critical thinking is further illuminated by the construction of a model case and additional cases. The concept critical thinking is finally succinctly defined. The implications that critical thinking holds for nursing education and practice are spelled out.

### **KEY CONCEPTS**

Concept, concept analysis, critical, critical thinking, critical thinking model, think.

## ***DEDICATION***

*Dedicated to the memory of my brother Peniel Mashele whose life will always be remembered by the whole family and myself as a hard worker and dedicated scholar.*