1. **Why is reflective thinking significant to learning?**
   - Assessment can become more meaningful to the student
   - What will change; how is enduring
   - “Ah-ha” moment
   - Get o/s of comfort zone – esp. safe if using avatar (alias)
   - Applies critical thinking skills
   - Challenges our own answers/subjects
   - Applies content to own life
   - Promotes meta-cognition
   - Deepens, broadens, & personalizes learning experience
   - Recall & retention improves
   - Because it is a skill we use now and in the future
   - Transferrable – not confined to curriculum
   - Personalizes education
   - Promotes engagement
   - Learner becomes the educator – promotes mastery
   - Build on own experiences and reality

**Top 3 Answers**
1. Promotes meta-cognition
2. Deepens, broadens, & personalizes learning experience
3. Learner becomes the educator – promotes mastery

1. **How does networking with others improve understanding?**
   - Broadens understanding of issues – perspective
   - Gives “shy” students a voice – volume
   - Promotes enthusiasm – understanding
   - Opens learning to diversity
   - Interaction promotes thinking out loud = better learning/2 heads are better than 1
   - Sheds light on our own strengths and weaknesses and challenges us to better grasp the topic
   - Humans are “social”… so collaborative learning takes place (hopefully!)
   - In theory… diversity improves learning but… “like” minds may not readily see value of other’s ideas
   - Tests own ideas; confirms/refutes; enhances
   - Eye opening – not everyone thinks our way
   - Promotes accountability
   - Learn from peers

**Top 3 Answers**
1. Gives “shy” students a voice – volume
2. Interaction promotes thinking out loud = better learning/2 heads are better than 1
3. Tests own ideas; confirms/refutes; enhances

2. **Why should educators promote the use of technology tools like Blogs, Wikis, Voice Threads, Podcasts, etc.?**
   - Because students like and may be familiar with technology
   - Can be more engaging
   - Unique experience
   - Frees up time/uses different time
   - Online anyways – works for student
   - Provides professor with written discussion
   - Safety for students
   - Equalizer for intro/extroverts, gender, and ethnicity – is the internet colorblind (Nakayama)?
   - Accountability for comments
   - Potential for more thoughtful comments
   - Learner-centered/constructionist approach with skillful facilitator
   - Can be more efficient – avoids repetition
   - Breaks up monotony
   - Erase place/time boundaries
   - Demonstrate understanding
   - Addresses different learning styles
   - Increased opportunity for peer evaluation
   - 1+2 = Accessibility

**Top 3 Answers**
1. Equalizer for intro/extroverts, gender, and ethnicity – is the internet colorblind (Nakayama)?
2. Potential for more thoughtful comments?
3. Erase place/time boundaries

4. **What methods do you employ within your lessons that promote the use of critical thinking skills?**
   - Service learning
   - Open-ended strategies (e.g. discipline building papers)
   - Integrate peer and self-evaluation
   - Blogs and other social media (comment on peer postings)
   - Use “messy” scenarios with no one right answer – tolerate ambiguity
   - Apply concepts to real life situations
   - Case studies
   - Field example from personal and other examples
   - Class experiments
   - Students create discussion questions/case studies
   - Term papers 😊
   - Identify theoretical perspectives shown in popular articles
- Students present summary of paper
- Use of film, media, and song for analysis of a particular concept
- Weekly reflections/commentaries related to course content
- Journaling to learn observational skills and critical self-reflection
- Small group discussions which answer critical thinking questions
- Sticky notes
- Interview an expert
- Write life stories

**Top 3 Answers**
1. Service learning
2. Use “messy” scenarios with no one right answer – tolerate ambiguity
3. Use of film, media, and song for analysis of a particular concept