ABSTRAK

CINDY NABABAN, NIM 3212411010, Pengaruh *Brainstorming* Pada Model *Discovery Learning* Dalam Kurikulum Merdeka Terhadap Peningkatan Kemampuan Berpikir Kritis Siswa Kelas VIII Di SMP NEGERI 2 PERCUT SEI TUAN.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis pengaruh *brainstorming* pada model *discovery learning* dalam Kurikulum Merdeka terhadap peningkatan kemampuan berpikir kritis siswa kelas VIII di SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. Latar belakang penelitian ini berangkat dari rendahnya kemampuan berpikir kritis siswa yang terlihat dari hasil tes awal sebelum pembelajaran. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode *pre-eksperimen* dengan rancangan *pretest-posttest* pada satu kelompok.. Subjek penelitian adalah siswa kelas VIII-5 SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. Instrumen penelitian berupa angket dan tes, di mana tes kemampuan berpikir kritis diberikan pada dua tahap, yaitu sebelum pembelajaran (*pre-test*) dan sesudah pembelajaran *(post-tes*t). Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa nilai rata-rata *pretes*t siswa adalah 56,72, yang menggambarkan kemampuan berpikir kritis masih berada pada kategori cukup. Setelah diberikan pembelajaran dengan menerapkan *brainstorming* dalam model *discovery learning*, nilai rata-rata *post test* meningkat menjadi 79,78. Sehingga, diperoleh peningkatan sebanyak 23,06 poin. Peningkatan ini membuktikan bahwa *brainstorming* memiliki pengaruh positif terhadap pengembangan kemampuan berpikir kritis siswa. Selain berdampak pada pencapaian akademis, penerapan *brainstorming* juga memberikan dampak non-akademis yang signifikan. Teknik ini mendorong siswa untuk lebih percaya diri, melatih keterampilan komunikasi, serta memperkuat kerja sama dan kolaborasi antar siswa dalam proses pembelajaran. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan *brainstorming* melalui model *discovery learning* dalam Kurikulum Merdeka terbukti mampu meningkatkan keterampilan berpikir kritis siswa kelas VIII di SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan.

THE Character Building UNIVERSITY

ABSTRACT

CINDY NABABAN, NIM 3212411010, The Effect of Brainstorming on the Discovery Learning Model in the Independent Curriculum on Improving Critical Thinking Skills of Grade VIII Students at SMP NEGERI 2 PERCUT SEI TUAN.

This study aims to analyze the effect of brainstorming on the discovery learning model in the Independent Curriculum on improving the critical thinking skills of eighth-grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The background of this study departs from the low critical thinking skills of students as seen from the results of the initial test before learning. This study used a pre-experimental method with a pretest-posttest design in one group. The subjects of the study were students of grades VIII-5 of SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan. The research instruments were questionnaires and tests, where the critical thinking skills test was given in two stages, namely before learning (pre-test) and after learning (post-test). The results showed that the average pre-test score of students was 56.72, which indicates that critical thinking skills are still in the sufficient category. After being given learning by implementing brainstorming in the discovery learning model, the average post-test score increased to 79.78. Thus, an increase of 23.06 points was obtained. This increase proves that brainstorming has a positive influence on the development of students' critical thinking skills. In addition to impacting academic achievement, the application of brainstorming also has significant non-academic impacts. This technique encourages students to be more confident, trains communication skills, and strengthens cooperation and collaboration among students in the learning process. The results of the study showed that the application of brainstorming through the discovery learning model in the Independent Curriculum has been proven to improve the critical thinking skills of eighth-grade students at SMP Negeri 2 Percut Sei Tuan.

THE Character Building UNIVERSITY