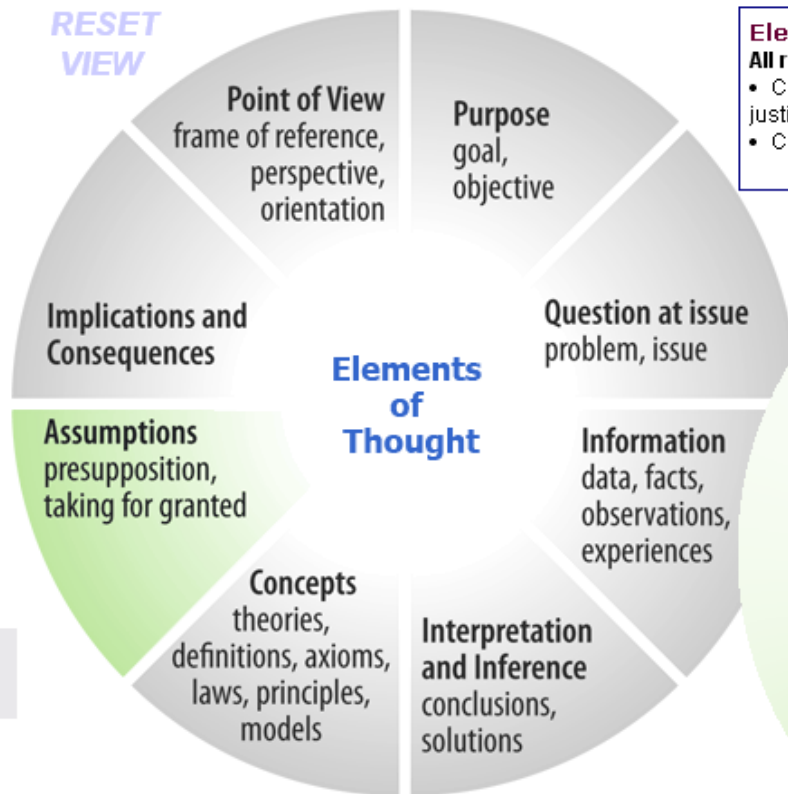


To Analyze Thinking We Must Identify and Question its Elemental Structures

Use the elements with sensitivity
to Intellectual Standards »

Clarity	Accuracy	Precision	Relevance	Depth
Breadth	Logic	Significance	Fairness	more...

RESET
VIEW



Element: Assumptions

All reasoning is based on ASSUMPTIONS.

- Clearly identify your assumptions and determine whether they are justifiable.
- Consider how your assumptions are shaping your point of view.

Check Your... Assumptions

Assumptions are beliefs you take for granted. They usually operate at the subconscious or unconscious level of thought.

Make sure that you are clear about your assumptions and they are justified by sound evidence.

Questions you can ask about assumptions

- What am I assuming or taking for granted?
- Am I assuming something I shouldn't?
- What assumption is leading me to this conclusion?
- What is... (this policy, strategy, explanation) assuming?
- What exactly do sociologists (historians, mathematicians, etc.) take for granted?
- What is being presupposed in this theory?
- What are some important assumptions I make about my roommate, my friends, my parents, my instructors, my country?



Foundation for Critical Thinking

Online Model for learning the Elements and Standards of Critical Thinking

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