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	тоге

RESET VIEW

> Point of View frame of reference, perspective, orientation

Purpose goal, objective Element: Concepts All reasoning is expressed through, and shaped by, CONCEPTS and IDEAS.

- · Identify key concepts and explain them clearly.
- · Consider alternative concepts or alternative definitions of concepts.
- · Make sure you are using concepts with precision.

Implications and Consequences

Assumptions Thought presupposition, taking for granted

Ouestion at issue problem, issue

> Information data, facts, observations, experiences

Concepts theories, definitions, axioms, laws, principles, models

Interpretation and Inference conclusions, solutions

Clarify Your... Concepts

Concepts are ideas, theories, laws, principles, or hypotheses we use in thinking to make sense of things.

Be clear about the concepts you are using and use them justifiably.

Questions you can ask about concepts

- What idea am I using in my thinking? Is this idea. causing problems for me or for others?
- · I think this is a good theory, but could you explain it more fully?
- · What is the main hypothesis you are using in your reasoning?
- · Are you using this term in keeping with established usage?
- What main distinctions should we draw in reasoning through this problem?
- . What idea is this author using in his or her thinking? Is there a problem with it?



Foundation for Critical Thinking

Elements

of

Online Model for learning the Elements and Standards of Critical Thinking

©2007 Foundation For Critical Thinking. - *reference material from The Thinker's Guide to Analytic Thinking