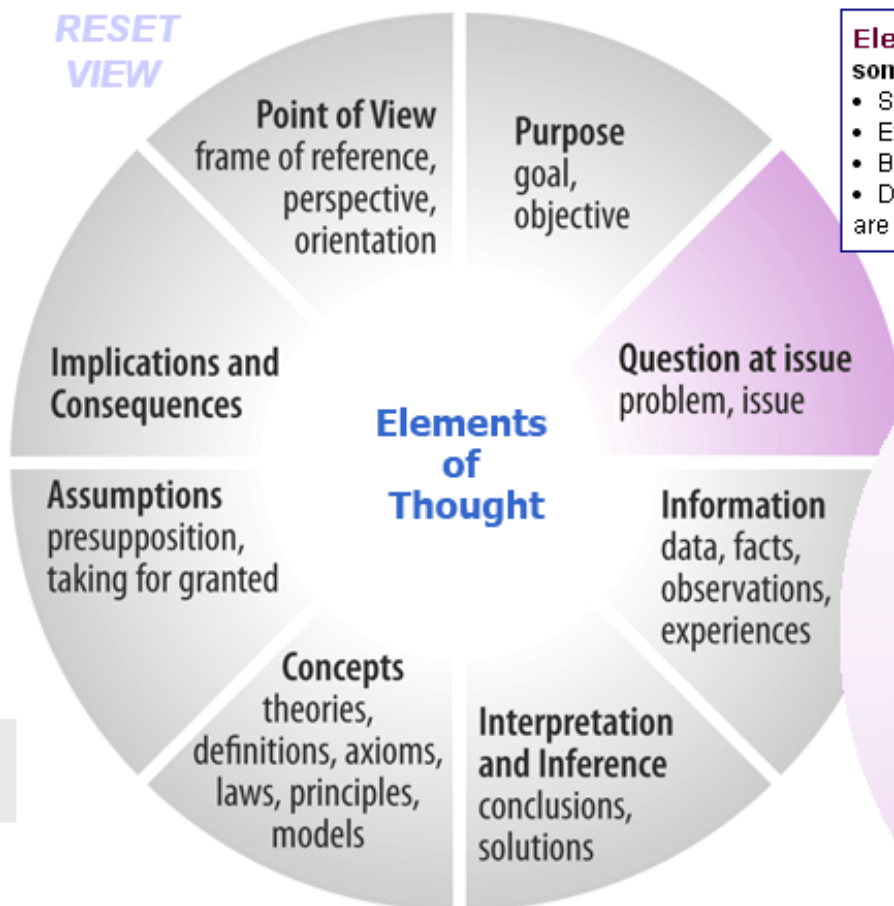


To Analyze Thinking We Must Identify and Question its Elemental Structures

Use the elements with sensitivity
to Intellectual Standards »

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

**RESET
VIEW**



Element: Question All reasoning is an attempt to figure something out, to settle some QUESTION, to solve some problem.

- State the question at issue clearly and precisely.
- Express the question in several ways to clarify its meaning.
- Break the question into sub-questions.
- Distinguish questions that have definitive answers from those that are a matter of opinion or that require multiple viewpoints.

State the Question

The question lays out the problem or issue and guides our thinking. When the question is vague, our thinking will lack clarity and distinctness.

The question should be clear and precise enough to productively guide our thinking.

Questions which target the question

- What is the question I am trying to answer?
- What important questions are embedded in the issue?
- Is there a better way to put the question?
- Is this question clear? Is it complex?
- I am not sure exactly what question you are asking. Could you explain it?
- The question in my mind is this: How do you see the question?
- What kind of question is this? Historical? Scientific? Ethical? Political? Economic? Or...?
- What would we have to do to settle this question?



Foundation for Critical Thinking

Online Model for learning the Elements and Standards of Critical Thinking

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