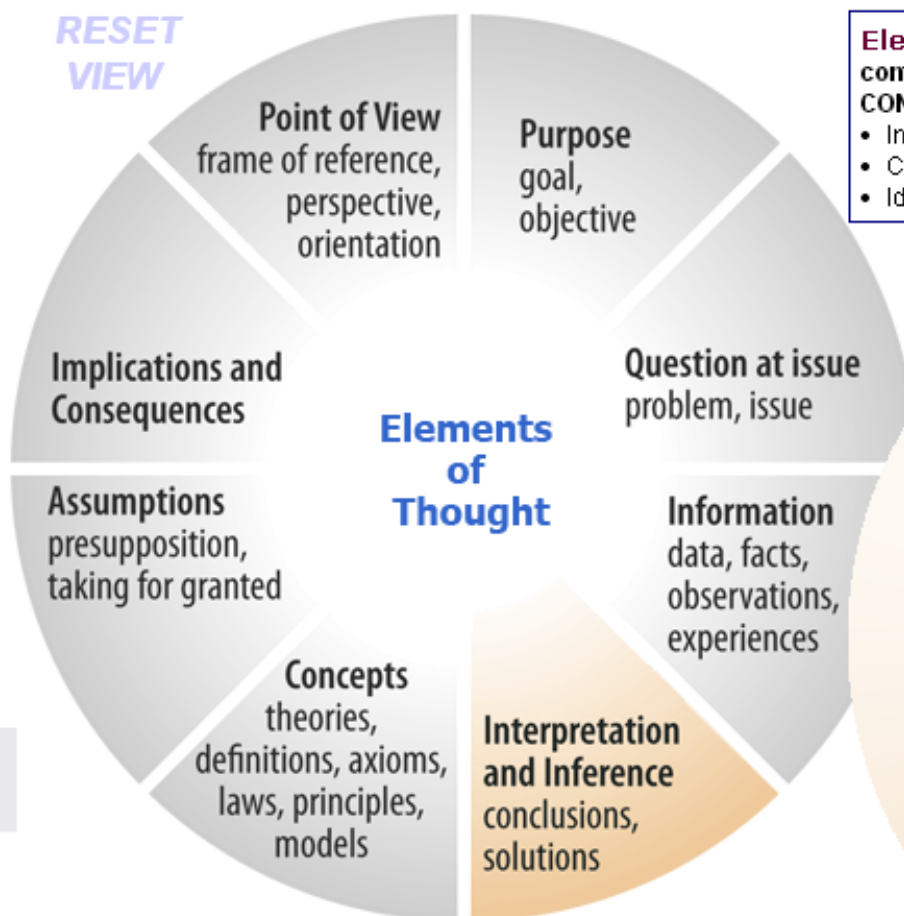


To Analyze Thinking We Must Identify and Question its Elemental Structures

Use the elements with sensitivity
to Intellectual Standards »

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

**RESET
VIEW**



Element: Interpretation and Inference All reasoning contains **INFERENCES** or **INTERPRETATIONS** by which we draw **CONCLUSIONS** and give meaning to data.

- Infer only what the evidence implies.
- Check inferences for their consistency with each other.
- Identify assumptions underlying your inferences.

Watch Your... Inferences

Inferences are interpretations or conclusions you come to. Inferring is what the mind does in figuring something out.

Inferences should logically follow from the evidence. Infer no more or less than what is implied in the situation.

Questions to check your inferences

- What conclusions am I coming to?
- Is my inference logical?
- Are there other conclusions I should consider?
- Does this interpretation make sense?
- Does our solution necessarily follow from our data?
- How did you reach that conclusion?
- What are you basing your reasoning on?
- Is there an alternative plausible conclusion?
- Given all the facts what is the best possible conclusion?
- How shall we interpret these data?



Foundation for Critical Thinking

Online Model for learning the Elements and Standards of Critical Thinking

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