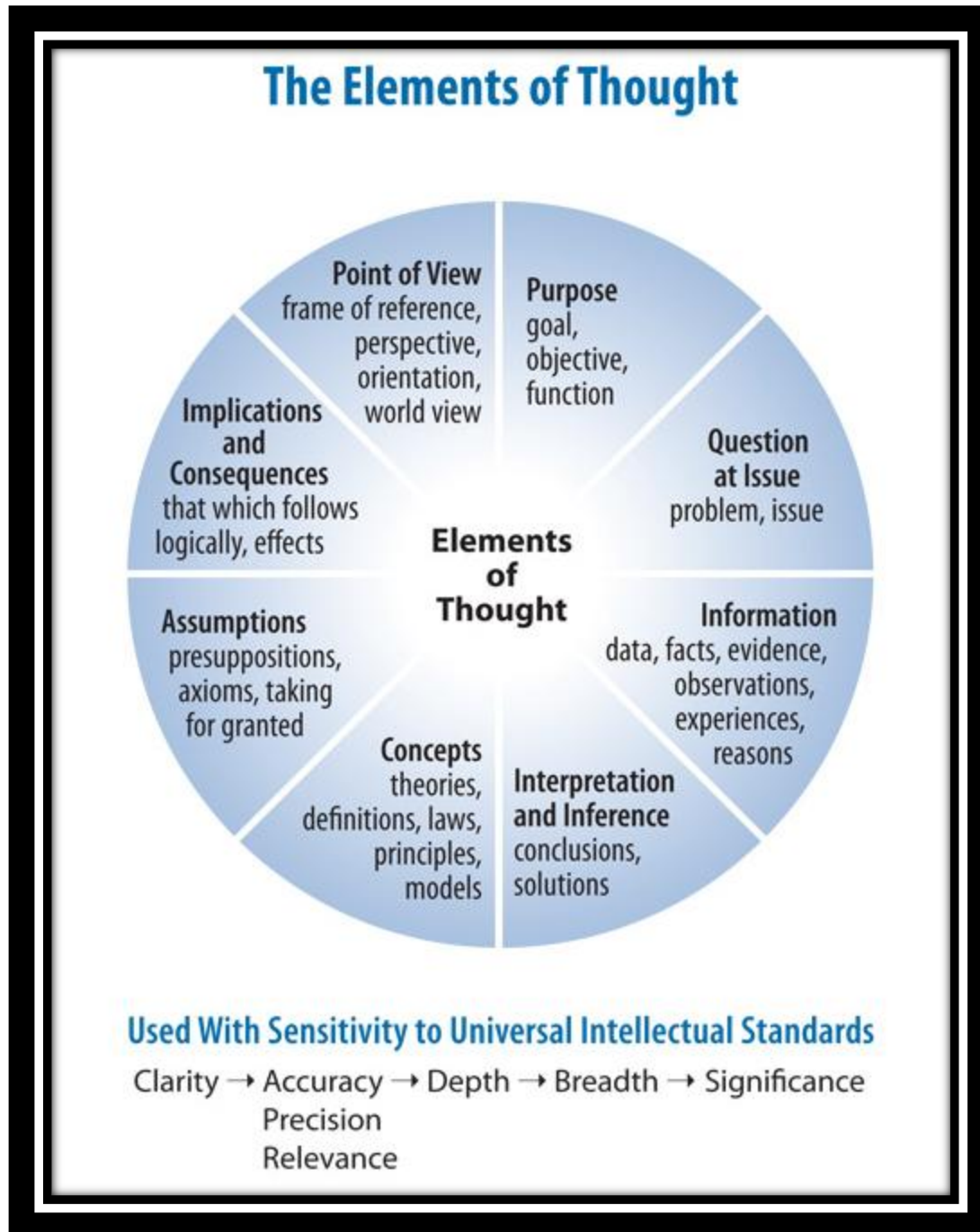


The Elements of Critical Thinking



Questions Using the Elements of Thought

PURPOSE:

- What am I trying to accomplish?
- What is my central aim? My purpose?

INFORMATION:

- What information am I using in coming to that conclusion?
- What experience have I had to support this claim?

INFERENCES and CONCLUSIONS

- How did I reach this conclusion?
- Is there another way to interpret the information?

CONCEPTS

- What is the main idea here?
- Could I explain this idea?

ASSUMPTIONS

- What am I taking for granted?
- What assumption has led me to that conclusion?

IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

- If someone accepted my position, what would be the implications? What am I implying?

POINTS OF VIEW

- From what point of view am I looking at this issue?
- Is there another point of view I should consider?

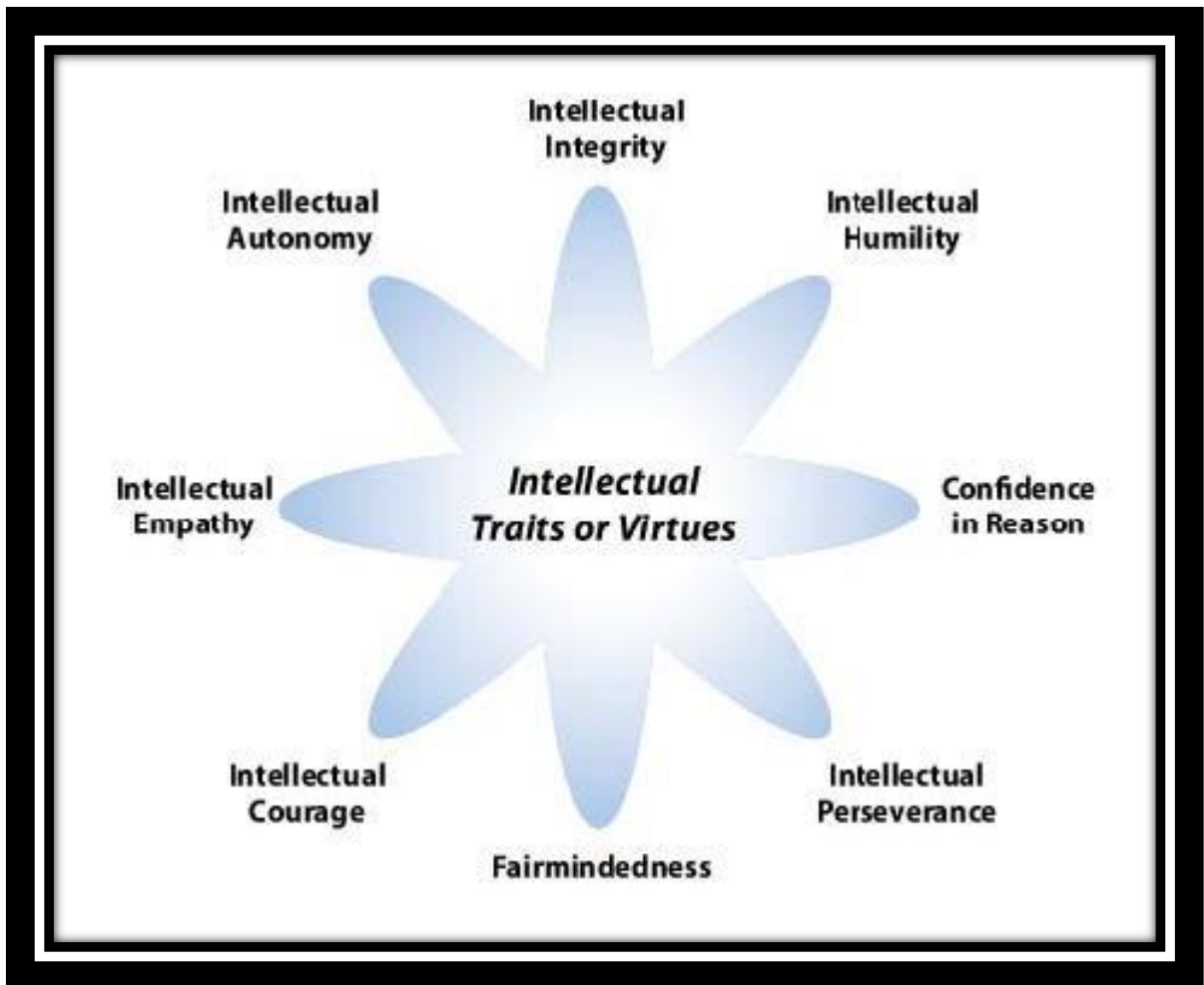
QUESTIONS

- What question am I raising?
- What question am I addressing?

Universal Intellectual Standards of Critical Thinking

Clarity	Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?
Accuracy	How could we check on that? How could we find out if that is true? How could we verify or test that?
Precision	Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?
Relevance	How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?
Depth	What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?
Breadth	Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?
Logic	Does all this make sense together? Does your first paragraph fit in with your last? Does what you say follow from the evidence?
Significance	Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?
Fairness	Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the view points of others?

Intellectual Traits or Virtues of Critical Thinking



The Critical Thinking Flow Chart

