An Overview of a Critical Thinking System

Intellectual Ethics

...Striving for a Culture of Fairminded Thinking

Intellectual humility
Intellectual integrity
Evening out participation in group work
Building a broader base for
     intellectual accountability
Seeking to level the playing field
Reducing static from
     competitive impulses
Vigilant to distortions of our making
Incorporating effective utilization of
     all modes of thinking
Fairmindedness
Intellectual perseverance
Intellectual empathy

A Framework & Set of Criteria for Reasoned Judgments

Categories of Questions: Factual, Preference, and Reasoned Judgment

Purpose
Statement of Problem/Opportunity
Assumptions
Concepts
Perspectives
Information/Interpretation
Inferences/Tentative Conclusion
Implications/Consequences

Intellectual Standards

Clear
Deep
Broad
Logical
Significant
Consistent
Relevant
Precise
Accurate
Realistic
Fair
Justifiable
Sufficient
Rational
Appropriate

A Sampling of Strategies

Accurately restate, compare and contrast
Pose questions to clarify and deepen
     the thinking of the speaker
Identify connections and relationships
Map out related problems
Segregate symptoms and causes
Identify indispensable information
Silent synthesis, then dialogue
Expand core concepts
Enumerate and assess assumptions
Identify significant perspectives to enter
Precisely define the limitations of our own filters
Relate problem/opportunities with purpose
Teach an "obvious" principle or connection
Identify and critique applications for
     related questions-supporting divergence
Using episodes of time to enhance thinking
Challenging ourselves to rigorous, ongoing
     self-reflection
Pre-thinking: an array of meeting strategies to
     raise the bar and include deep thinking
Documentation and review: visual learners