CRITICAL THINKING

SEE-I Method

The SEE-I Method

SEE-I is an acronym; it stands for the steps or concepts listed below.

    State it

    Elaborate

    Example

    Illustrate

SEE-I is an easy-to-use and methodical critical thinking technique that helps writers clarify their ideas.

STATE IT: What is Critical Thinking?

- Critical thinking is a *self-directed* process by which we take *deliberate steps* to think at the *highest level* of quality.

- Critical thinking is skillful, responsible thinking that is conducive to good judgment because it is sensitive to context, relies on criteria, and is self-correcting.

Elaborate: IN OTHER WORDS……

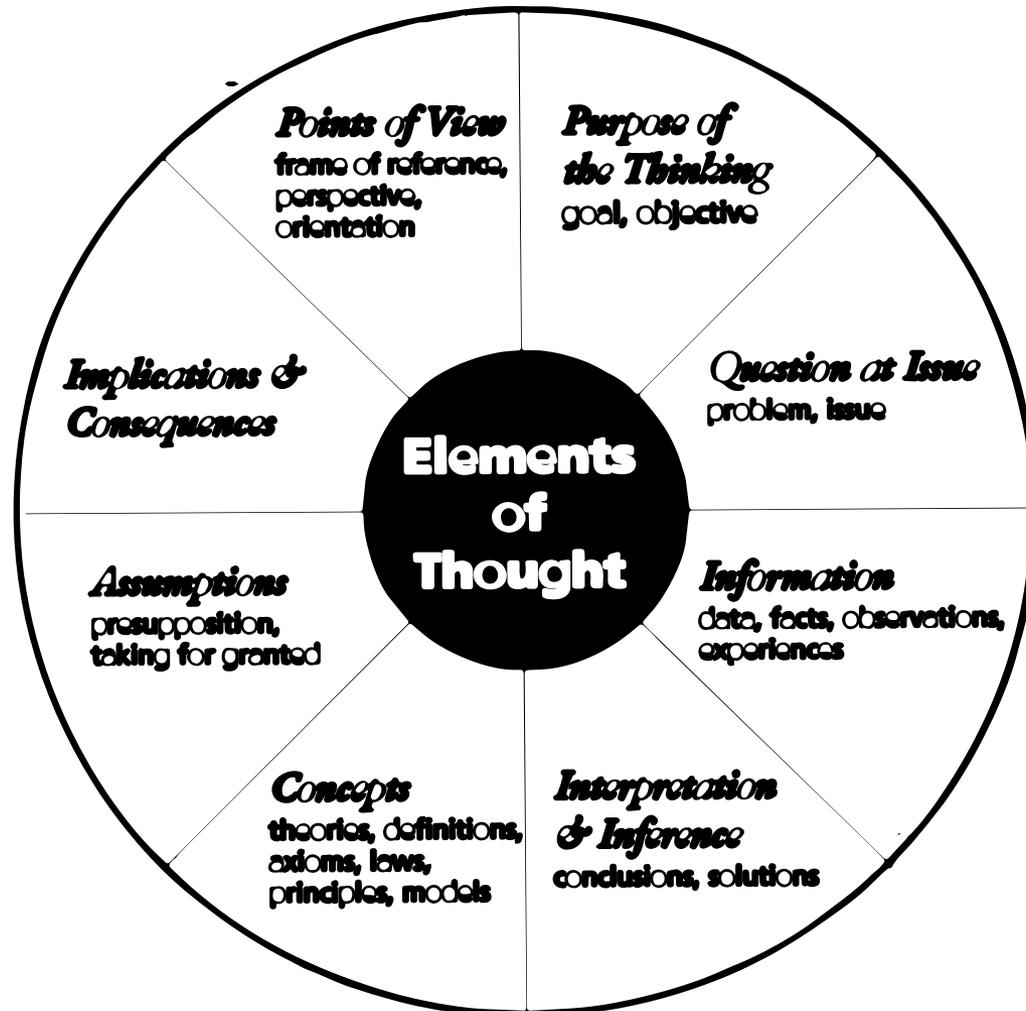In other words critical thinking is "thinking about thinking in order to make it better."

EXAMPLE: Critical Thinking is…

Analysis of thinking by focusing on the parts ("the Elements")

Evaluation of thinking by focusing on the quality ("the Standards")

Improvement of thinking by using what you have learned

ELEMENTS OF THOUGHT

ILLUSTRATE: In other words….

Illustrate with a with a metaphor, analogy, or comparison

In other words all reasoning . . .
- has a purpose
- is an attempt to figure something out, to settle some question, solve some problem.
- is based on assumptions
- is done from some point of view
- is based on data, information & evidence
- is expressed through and shaped by concepts and ideas
- contains inferences or interpretations by which we draw conclusions and give meaning to data
- leads somewhere or has implications and consequences.

INTELLECTUAL STANDARDS

Clarity	Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example?
Accuracy	How could we check on that? How could we find out if that is true?
Precision	Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details?
Relevance	How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question?
Depth	What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question?
Breadth	Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view?
Logic	Does all this make sense together? 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?
Fairness	Do I have any vested interest in this issue?

The result is a well cultivated critical thinker who:

- Raises vital questions and problems, formulating them clearly and precisely;

- Gathers and assesses relevant information, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively

- Comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards;

- Thinks open mindedly within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences

- Communicates effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems

How to Apply the SEE-I Method

SEE-I is an acronym; it stands for the steps or concepts below.

     State it

     Elaborate

     Example

     Illustrate

SEE-I is an easy-to-use and methodical critical thinking technique that helps writers clarify their ideas.

In this guide, SEE-I is used to assist students in providing a strong skeleton for their papers beyond the usually weak outline.

Note the following example.

What is grammar?

- *State it*: Grammar is a set of agreed upon rules for language and punctuation with the goal of clear communication.

- *Elaborate*: In other words, grammar is a way of using words and punctuation so that as many readers as possible can agree upon the meaning.

- *Example*: For example, we use grammar not just in English papers but in all oral and written communication. When that grammar is correct, we have a better chance of accurate communication.

- *Illustration*: Grammar is like the rules of the road. When we all use the same rules, we have fewer accidents (breakdowns in communication) and we all get where we're going safely (clear communication).

Now you are ready to apply the SEE-I method to your assignments.

- State it:

- Elaborate:

- Example:

- Illustration:

Resources:

http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/elements-and-standards-learning-tool/783