

35 Dimensions of Critical Thought

A. Affective Dimensions

- thinking independently
- developing insight into egocentricity or sociocentricity exercising fairmindedness
- exploring thoughts underlying feelings and feelings underlying thought
- developing intellectual humility and suspending judgment
- developing intellectual courage
- developing intellectual good faith or integrity
- developing intellectual perseverance
- developing confidence in reason

B. Cognitive Dimensions—Macro-Abilities

- refining generalizations and avoiding oversimplifications
- comparing analogous situations: transferring insights to new contexts
- developing one's perspective: creating or exploring beliefs, arguments, or theories
- clarifying issues, conclusions, or beliefs
- clarifying and analyzing the meanings of words or phrases
- developing criteria for evaluation: clarifying values and standards
- evaluating the credibility of sources of information
- questioning deeply: raising and pursuing root or significant questions analyzing or evaluating arguments, interpretations, beliefs, or theories generating or assessing solutions
- analyzing or evaluating actions or policies

Continued on reverse



35 Dimensions of Critical Thought, continued

B. Cognitive Dimensions—Macro-Abilities, continued

- reading critically: clarifying or critiquing texts
- listening critically: the art of silent dialogue
- making interdisciplinary connections
- practicing Socratic discussion: clarifying and questioning beliefs, theories, or perspectives
- reasoning dialogically: comparing perspectives, interpretations, or theories
- reasoning dialectically: evaluating perspectives, interpretations, or theories

C. Cognitive Dimensions—Micro-Skills

- comparing and contrasting ideals with actual practice
- thinking precisely about thinking: using critical vocabulary
- noting significant similarities and differences
- examining or evaluating assumptions
- distinguishing relevant from irrelevant facts
- making plausible inferences, predictions, or interpretations
- giving reasons and evaluating evidence and alleged facts
- recognizing contradictions
- exploring implications and consequences

