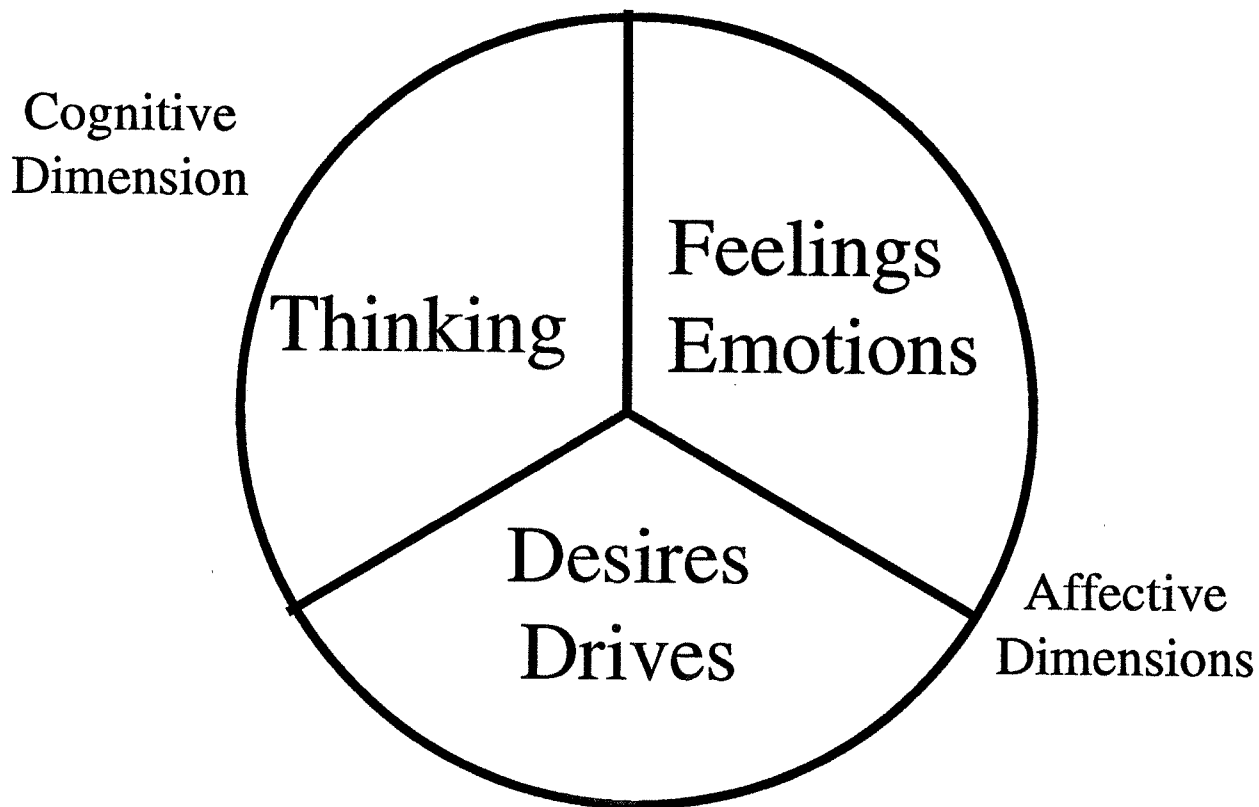


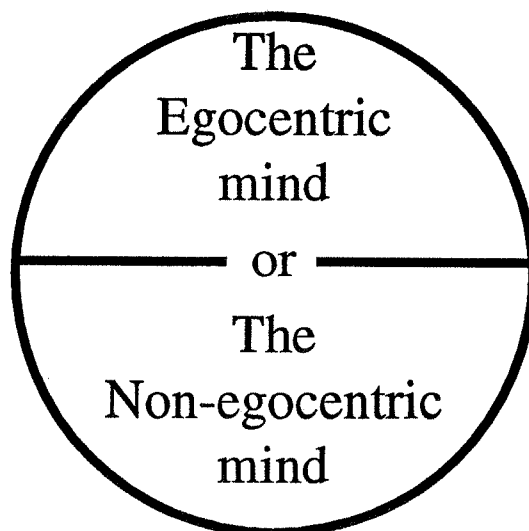
8) The Affective Dimension of Thinking: Egocentric & Non-egocentric Thought

In this section we have placed transparencies that highlight the affective dimension of thinking. All thinking has an affective foundation that is either egocentric or non-egocentric. We need to learn how to develop non-egocentric affect & diminish egocentrism.

Dimensions of the Mind



These dimensions of the mind are, at any given time, under the influence of either:



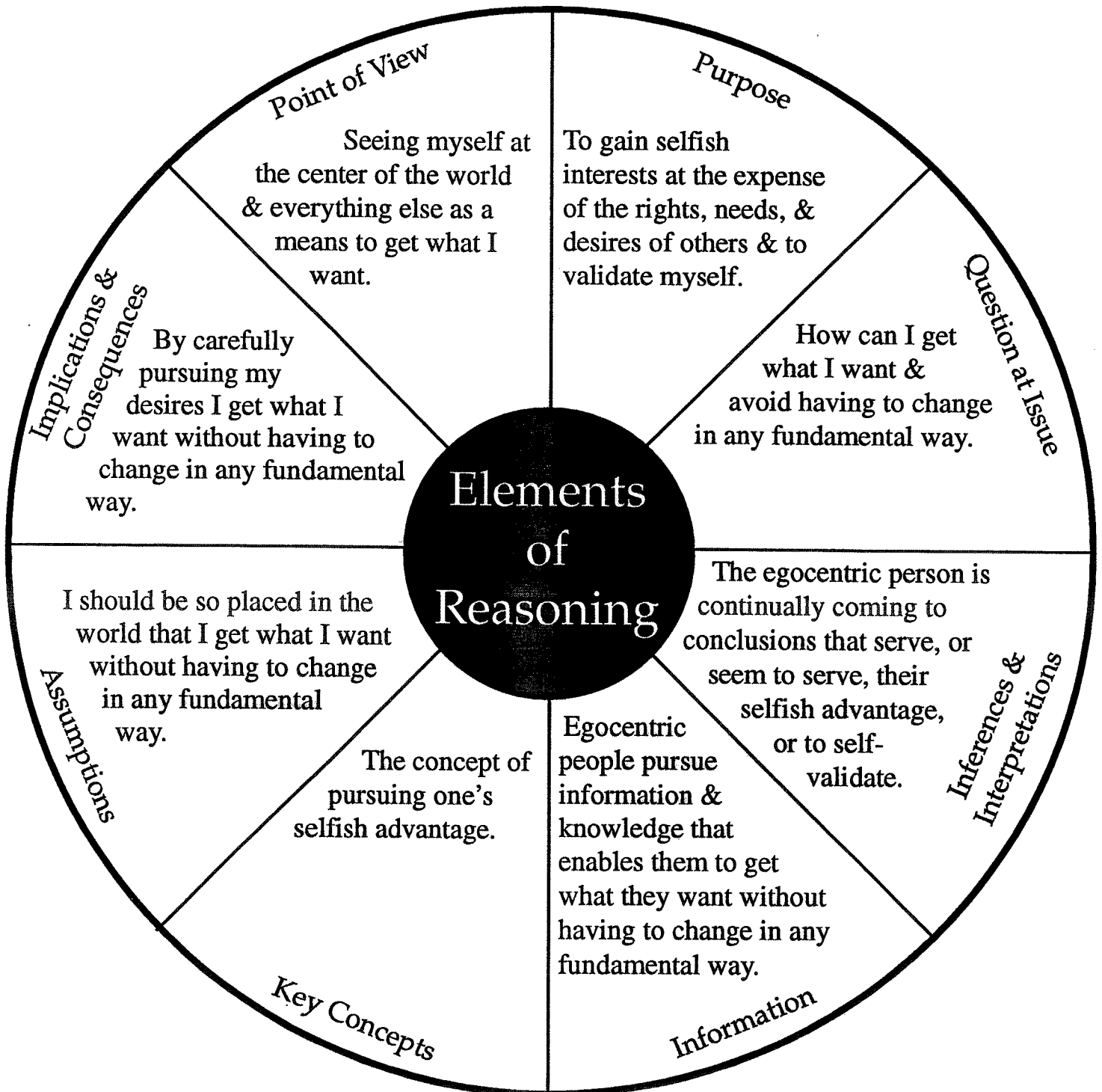
The Egocentric Mind

- pursues selfish interests at the expense of the rights, needs & desires of others while stunting the development of the rational mind.
- can be, inflexible
- is selfish
- makes global, sweeping negative generalizations
- distorts information & ignores significant information
- reacts with negative, counter productive emotions when it fails to have its desires met.

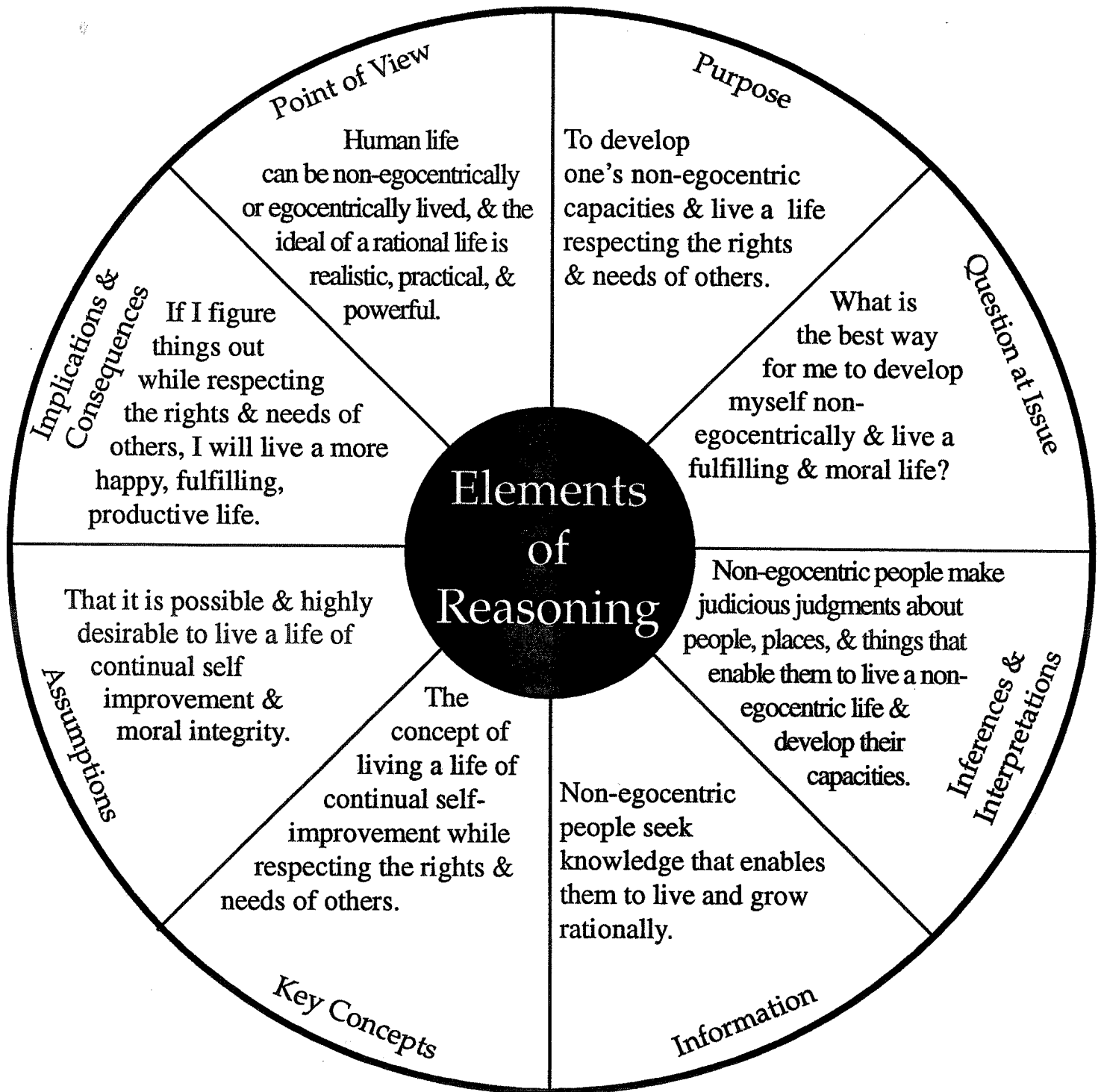
The Non-egocentric Mind

- respects the needs & desires of others while pursuing its own needs & desires and is motivated to develop itself, to learn, to grow intellectually.
- is flexible, adaptable
- strives to be fairminded
- strives to accurately interpret information
- strives to gather and consider all relevant information.
- reacts rationally to situations by taking charge of emotions and using emotional energy productively.

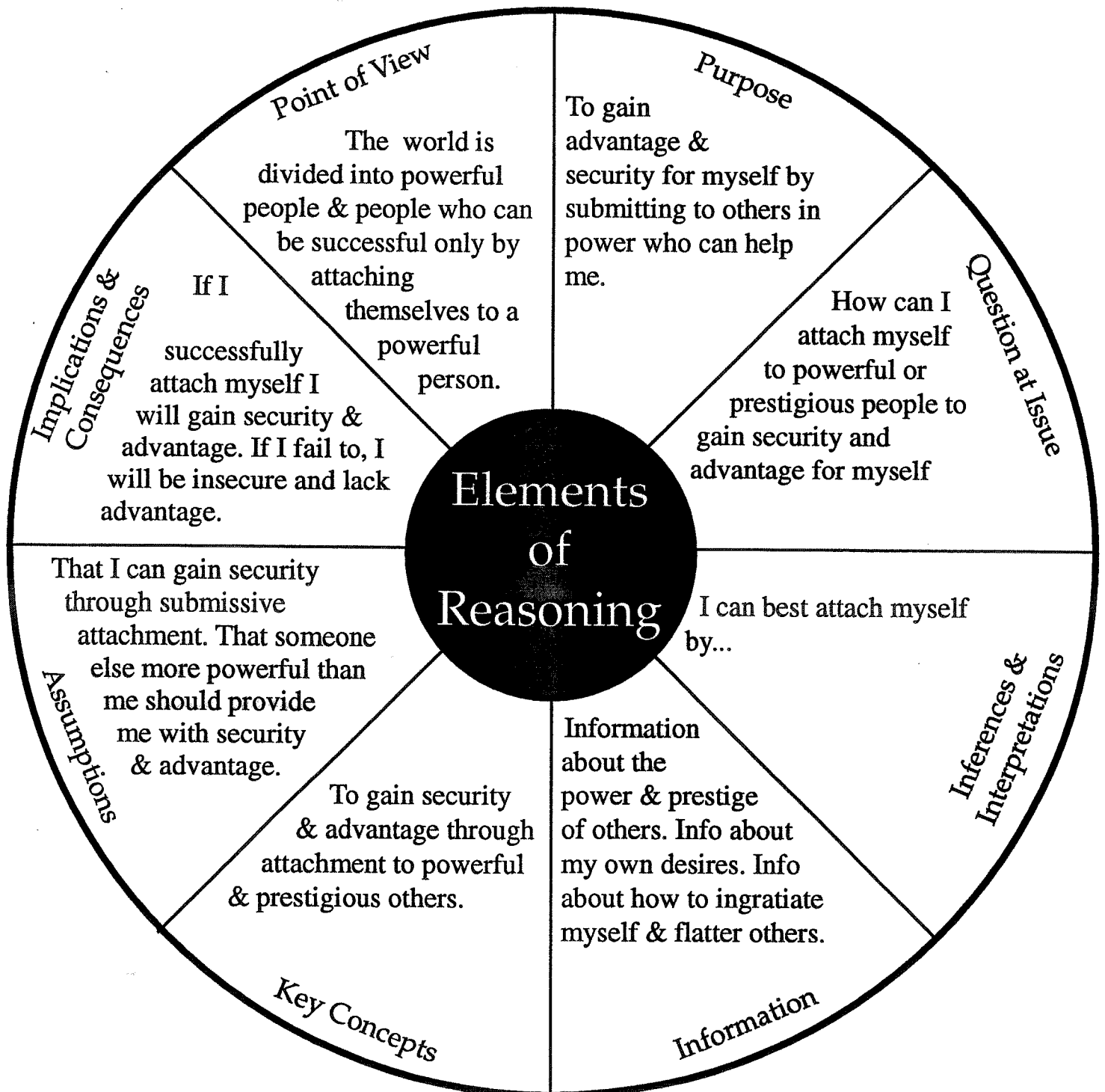
The Logic of Egocentrism



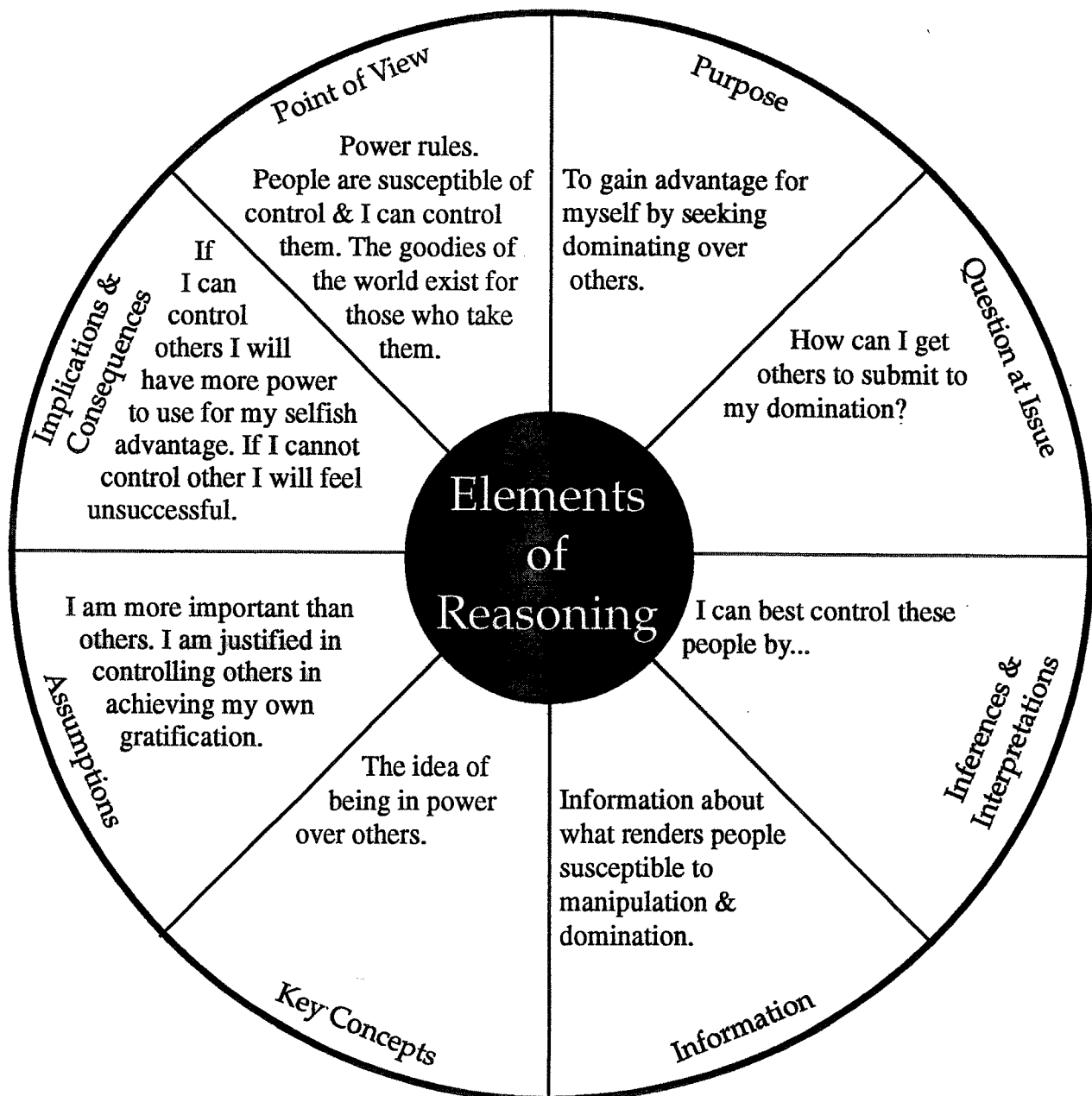
The Logic of the Non-egocentric Mind



The Logic of the Submissive Ego



The Logic of the Dominating Ego



Feelings which accompany
egocentric resistance include:

Defensiveness

Irritability

Arrogance

Anger

Apathy

Indifference

Alienation

Resentment

Depression

The Egocentric Mind continually engages in:

Rationalization

To justify its position...

- I should get the largest piece of cake because I'm the biggest person.
- I should get to sit in the front seat because adults always sit in the front.
- I shouldn't have to listen to you because I know as much as you know.
- I earned this money so I should get to spend it the way I want to.

There are parts to
thinking



There are no parts to
feeling, to wanting.

Egocentric

- I am cast upon a horrible desolate island, void of all hope of recovery.
- I am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world to be miserable.
- I am divided from mankind, a solitaire, one banished from human society.
- I have not clothes to cover me.
- I am without any defense or means to resist any violence of man or beast.
- I have no soul to speak to, or relieve me.

Non-egocentric

- But I am alive, and not drowned, as all my ship's company was.
- But I am singled out, too, from all the ship's crew to be spared from death; and He that miraculously saved me from death can deliver me from this condition.
- But I am not starved and perishing on a barren place, affording no sustenance.
- But I am in a hot climate, where if I had clothes I could hardly wear them.
- But I am cast on an island, where I see no wild beasts to hurt me, as I saw on the coast of Africa. And what if I had been shipwrecked there?
- But God wonderfully sent the ship in near enough to the shore that I have gotten out so many necessary things as will either supply my wants, or enable me to supply myself even as long as I live.

What do I need
to know about
the affective
dimension of
thought if I want
to develop as a
critical thinker?

What is affect?

How has its
significance been
underestimated
in our
understanding
of thinking?

How are rationality
and irrationality to
be understood in
relation to the
operation of the
mind?

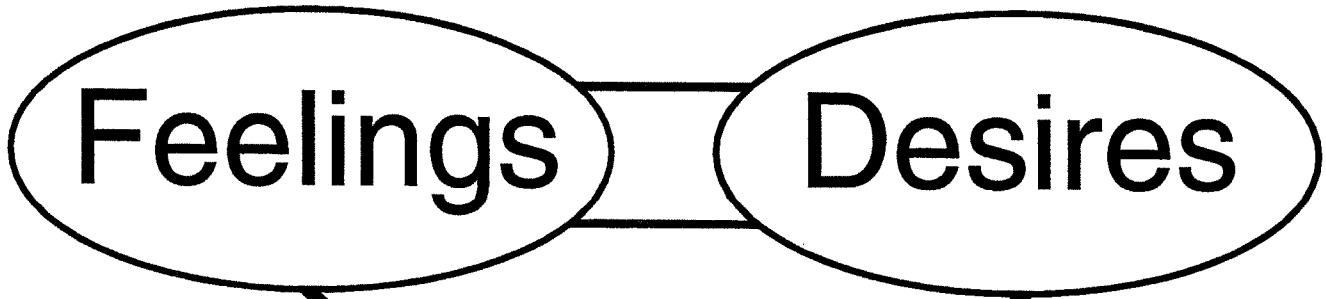
What is the
difference between
non-egocentric and
egocentric affect?

How can
we control
and take
charge of
affect?

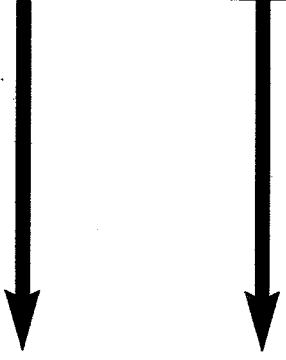
Activity: Egocentric Thinking

- 1) Identify someone you know whose ego is fundamentally dominating or submissive.
 - 2) Describe the behavior they engage in which would support this.
-

When you have finished, stand up and find a partner to share with.



Do not correct
themselves



Change
only
through
Thinking

Becoming more
rational



means

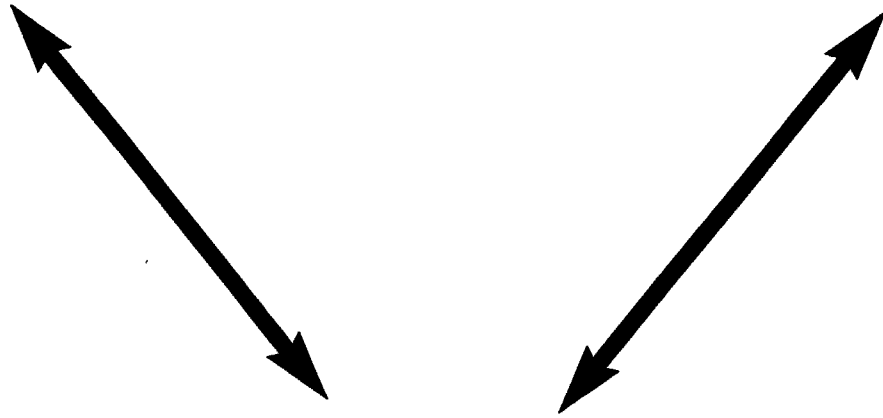


gaining control of
the ego

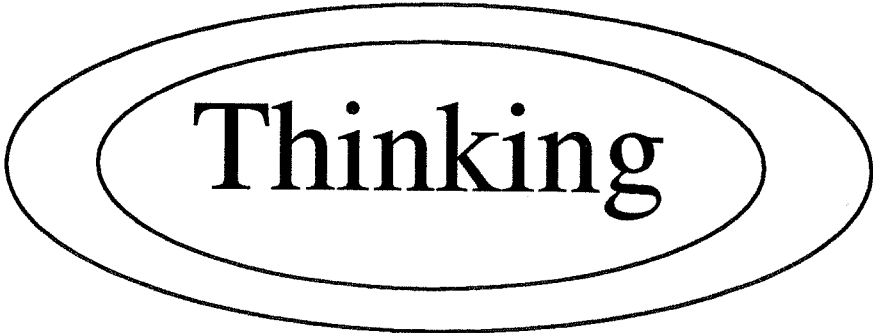


which is done through
developing critical
thinking skills

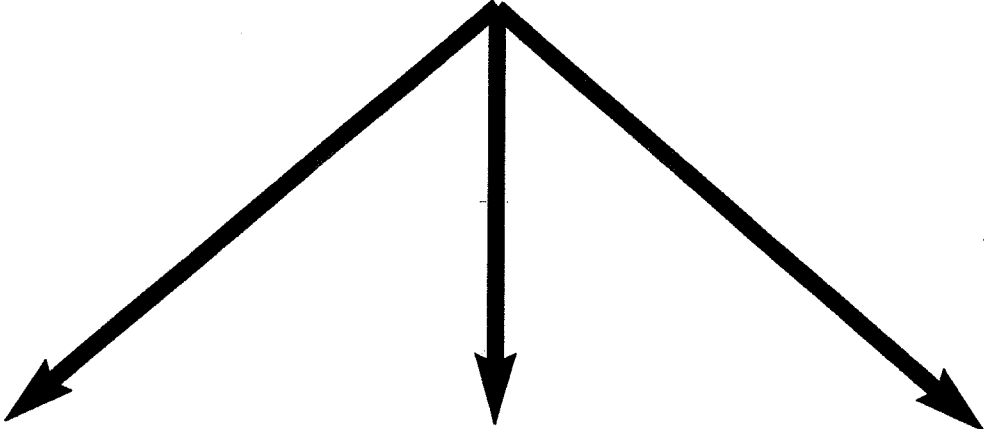
Thinking ↔ Feelings



Driving
forces



the key
to



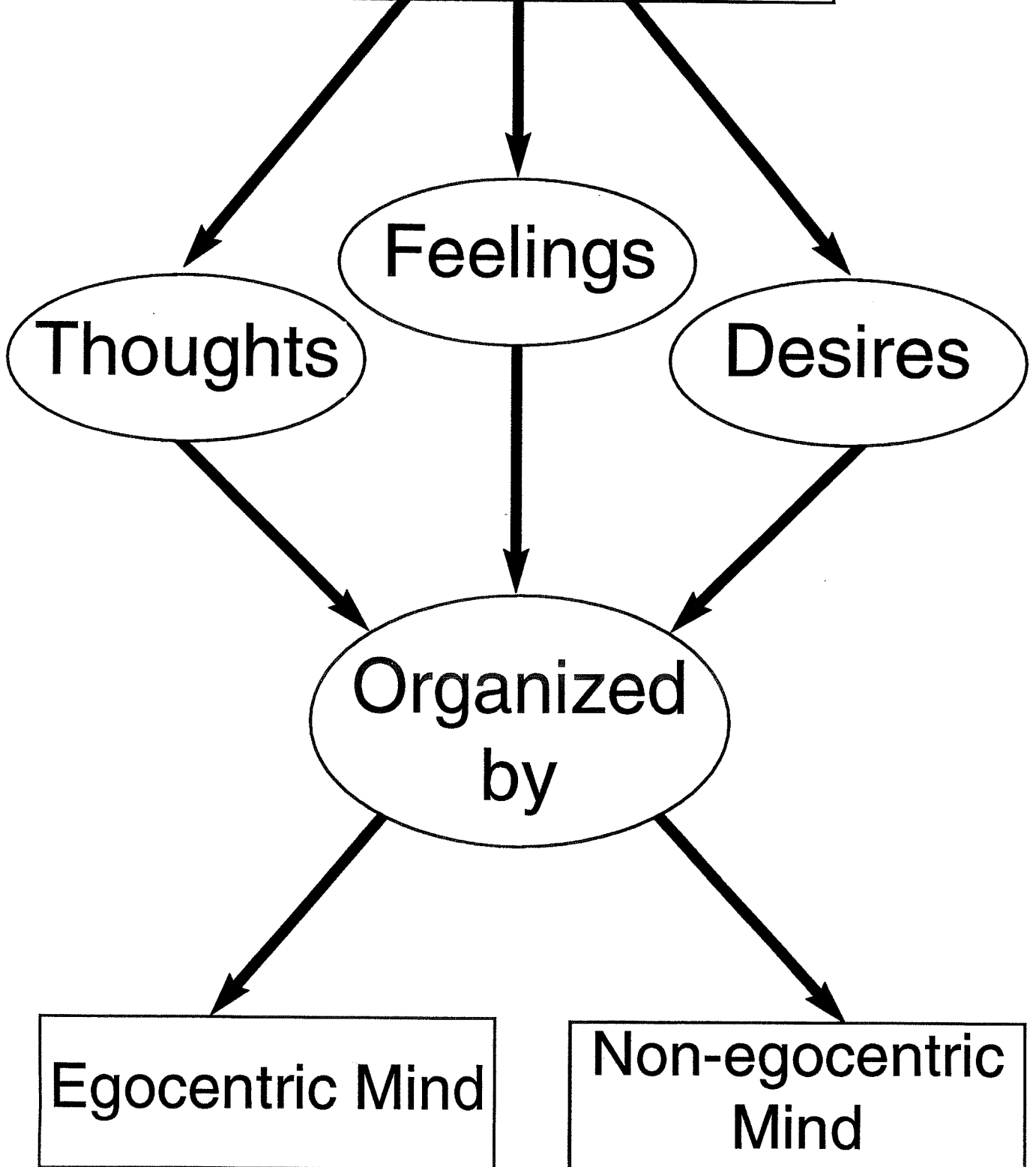
Thinking

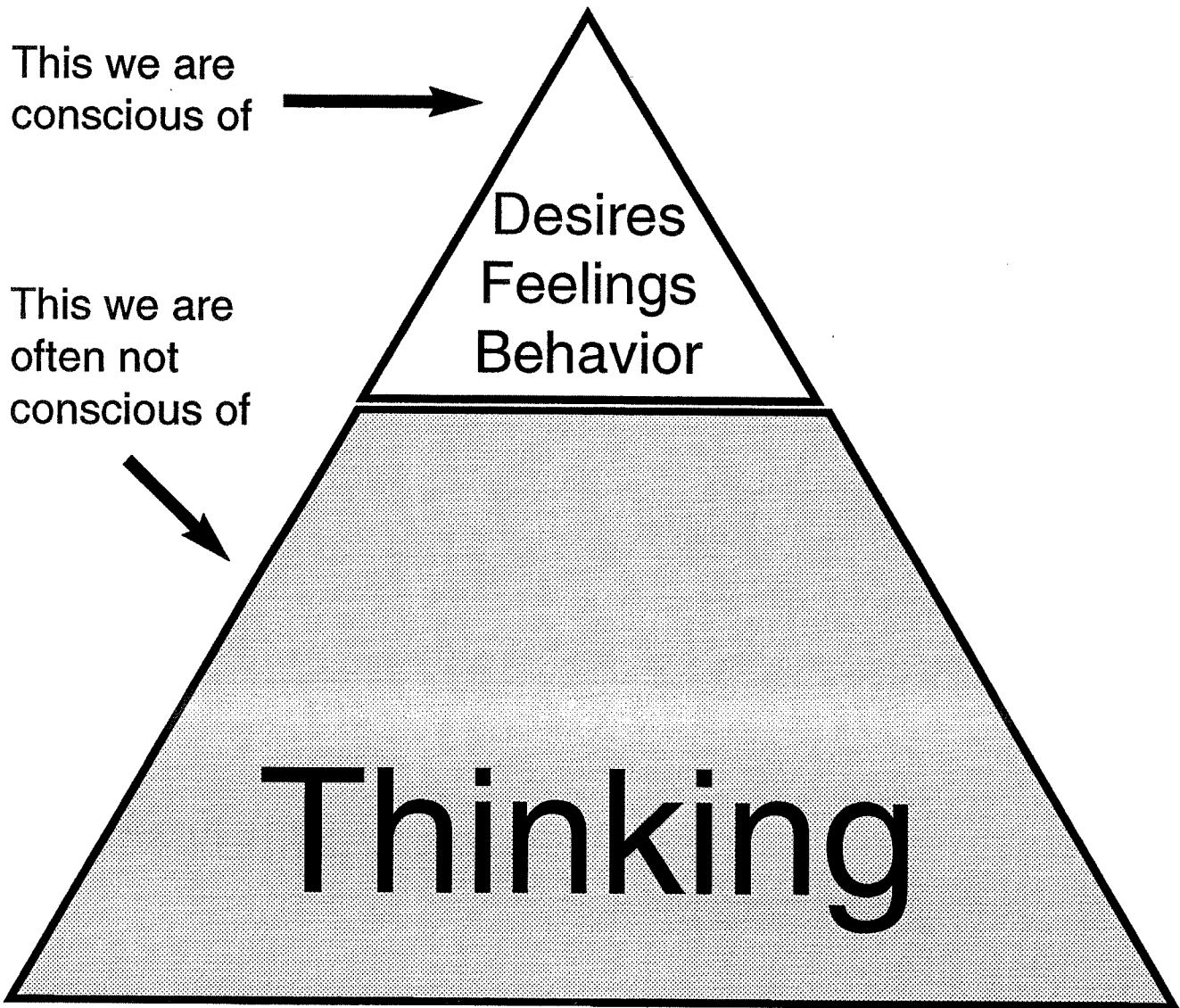
Feeling

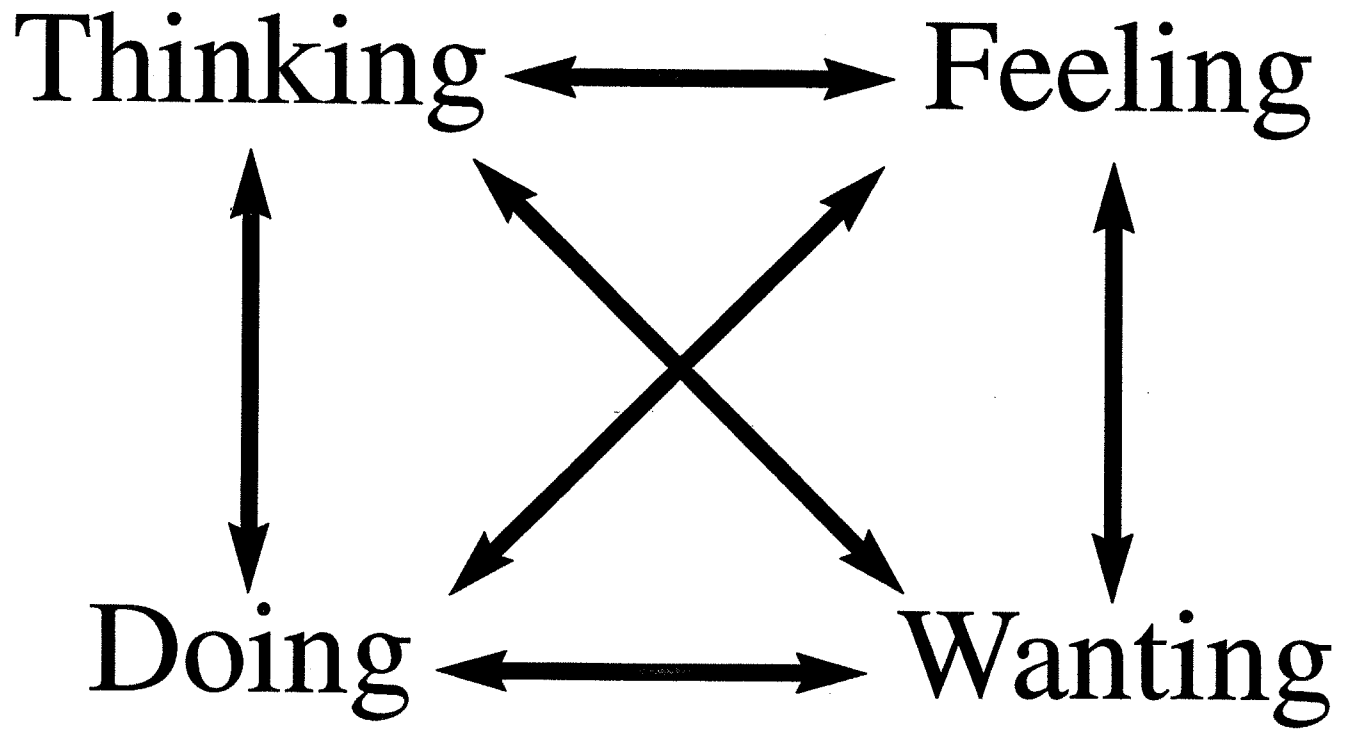
Wanting

- What are some of the behaviors that students engage in that are most likely driven by their egocentric thoughts, feelings, & drives?
- What can we do about some of them?

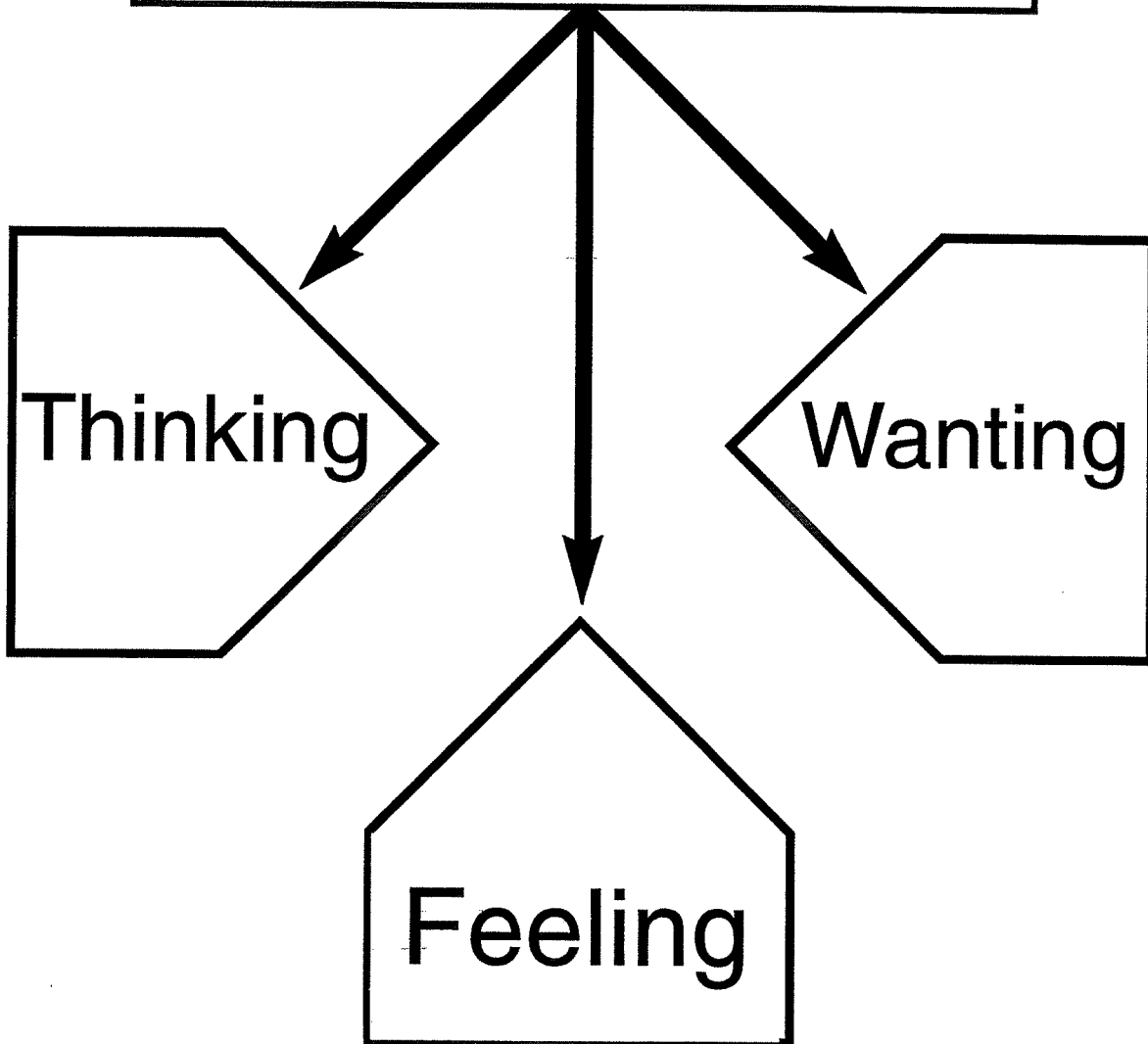
The Mind







Three Basic functions of the human mind

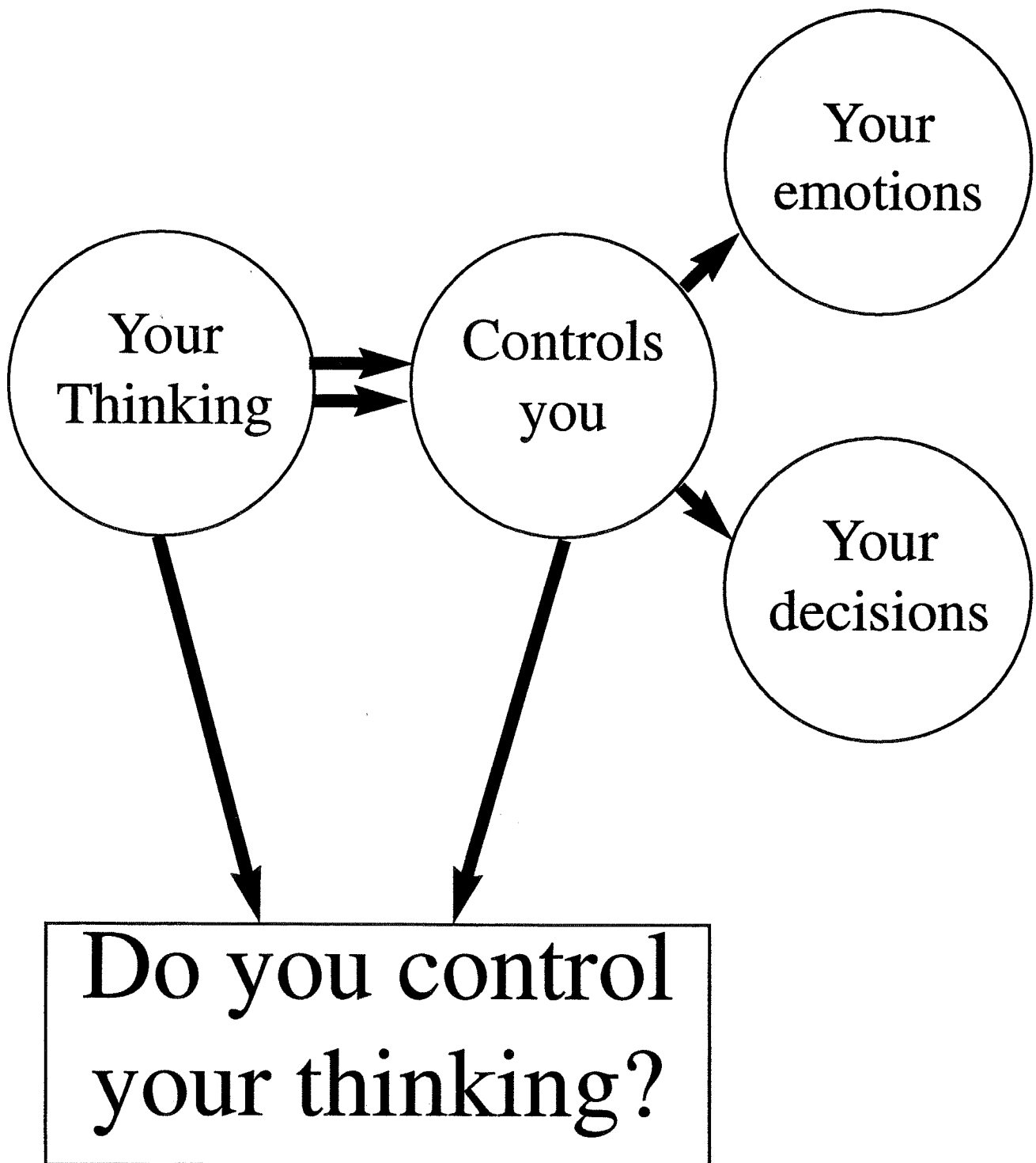


Defects in feeling and wanting plague our students.

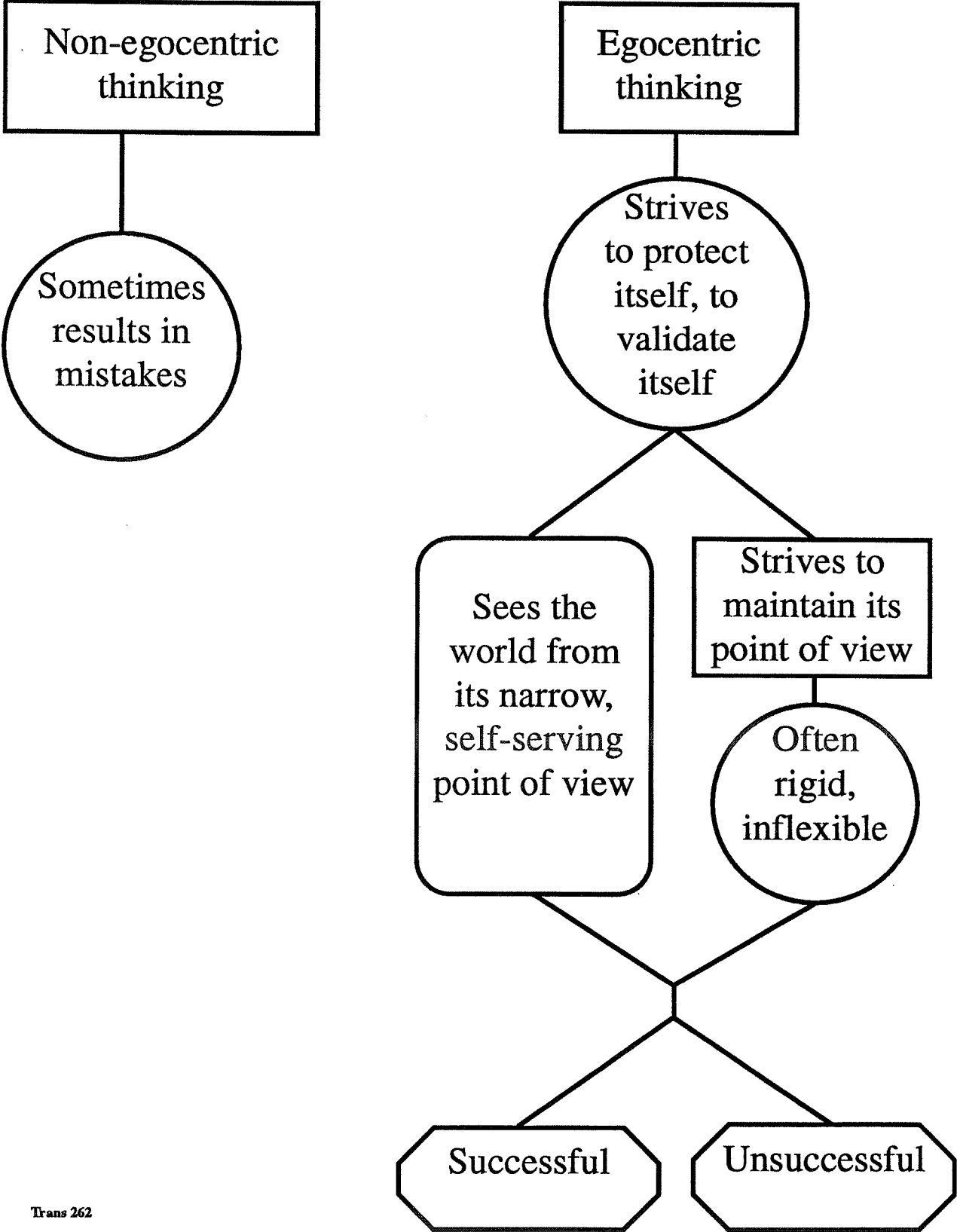


They are capable of immense learning but do not desire it, are bored by it.

- What are some of the behaviors that students engage in that are most likely driven by their egocentric thoughts, feelings, & drives?
- What can we do about some of them?



Problems in Thinking

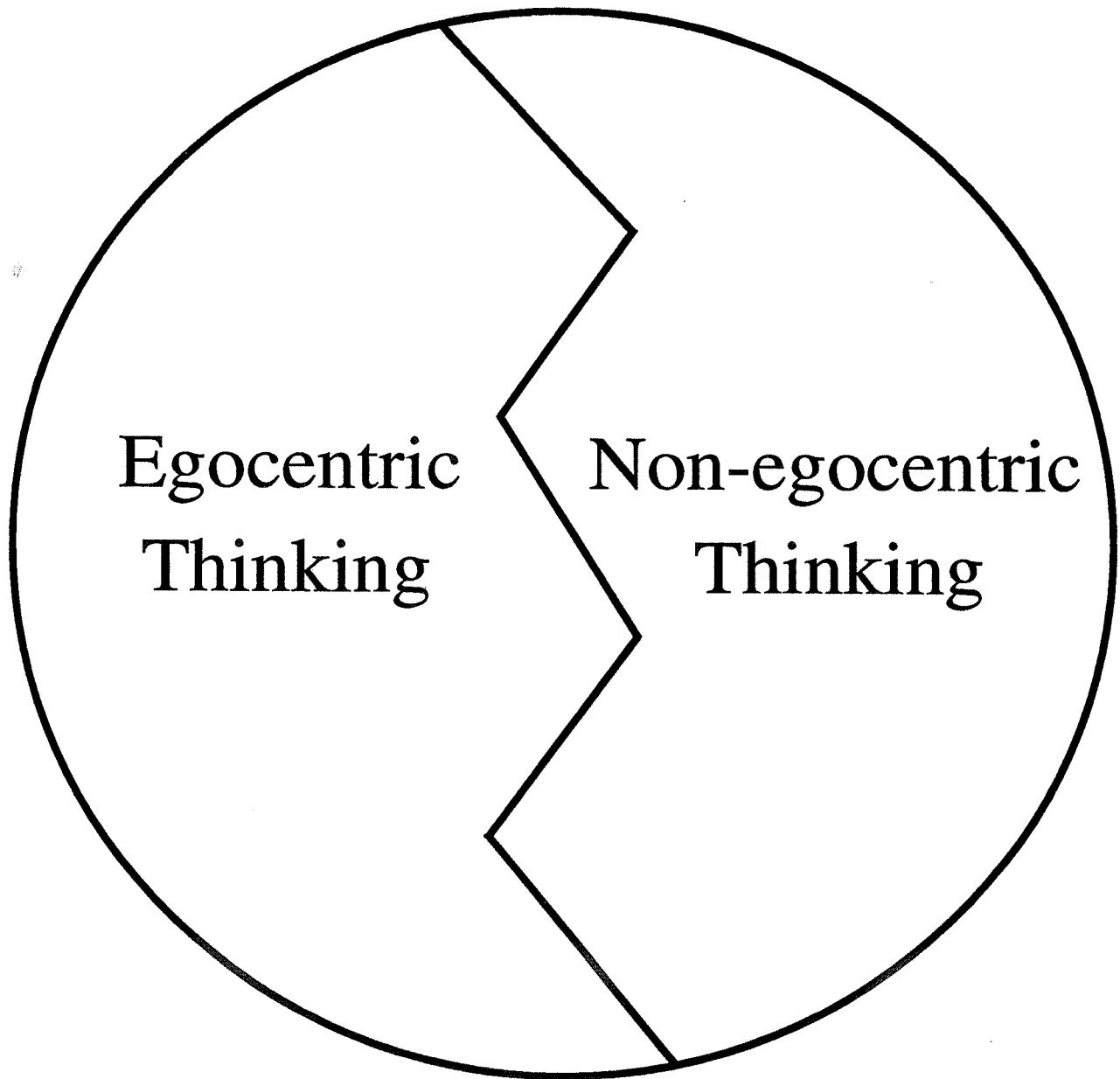


What is affect?



How is
affect to be
understood in
relationship to
thinking?

How is the
mind driven
in one
direction or
the other?



How do we understand egocentric thinking in relationship to reasoning?

Identify some agendas and feelings of your students.

- ① What do they feel?
- ② What are they driven to do? What are they motivated toward?
- ③ Are these feelings and drives egocentric or non-egocentric?
- ④ What do you want them to feel, to be motivated toward?
- ⑤ How can you help achieve this end?

Work in Pairs

- What are you doing to address the affective dimension of your students' minds?
- What can you do differently to better reach them affectively?

✱ Work individually

✱ When you hear the tone, discuss your answers at your table.

Motives of the Ego

```
graph TD; A[Motives of the Ego] --> B[Strives to validate its current way of thinking]; A --> C[Strives to have its selfish interests met];
```

Strives to
validate
its current
way of
thinking

Strives to
have its
selfish
interests met

What do I
mean by
egocentrism?

➤ What is your egocentric type?

Dominant - or - Submissive

➤ How do you see your ego manifested in your life?

➤ What is the egocentric type of your significant other?

➤ What problems exist in your relationship that are egocentrically generated?

Think of an example in your life where you think egocentrically.

Answer these questions:

- ① What is the irrational thinking?
- ② What is the related feeling?
- ③ What is the related feeling?
- ④ What are you driven to do (or away from doing)?
- ⑤ What would be non-egocentric thinking about this situation?

Work quietly at your tables until you hear the tone sound.

Key Question

What is
the
motive??

How do I
differentiate
between
egocentrism
and
non-egocentrism?

What are the
patterns
of
egocentrism?

Figure out the

Motive

to figure out whether
the person is being
egocentric or
non-egocentric.

What is the
relationship
between
egocentrism
and affect?

Is it possible for me to
eliminate my ego?

Is it possible for me to
fundamentally change
my ego to the other
type?

How can I diminish
its power?

- ① Is the thinking egocentric or non-egocentric?
 - ② If egocentric, how could you change the thinking to make it non-egocentric?
 - ③ If you changed the thinking, what would be the related feeling, desire?
-

Discuss in pairs

Resistance is the key barrier to the growth of the rational mind.

Resistance to the development of the mind is a drive against change and growth and, as such, is a product of irrational thinking.



egocentric thinking

If you want to change a...



Behavior

or

Feeling



Change the thinking
that is underlying the
behavior or feeling

Understanding



Affect



Crucial to



Critical
Thinking

MAKES SENSE OF
THE WORLD

Judging
perceiving
analyzing
assuming
clarifying
determining
comparing
synthesizing

MOTIVATORS -
HOW ARE WE
DOING?

Am I doing well
or poorly?
- all feelings and
emotions
happy, sad,
depressed,
anxious, stressed,
worried

DRIVES US
FORWARD OR AWAY
FROM ACTION

goals
desires
purposes
agendas
values
motivations

Cognition & Affect



hopelessly interconnected.

Whenever there is thinking,
there is feeling.

Wherever there is feeling,
there is drive.

Wherever there is drive,
there is thinking.

How do you feel about your teaching, or your work?

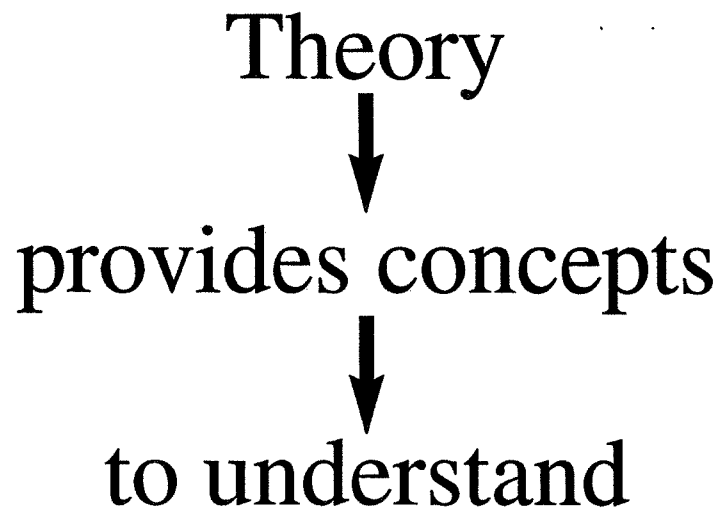
What is the thinking that is causing those feelings?

What are you driven to do as a result of this feeling and thinking?

I FEEL _____,

because I THINK _____.

Therefore I am DRIVEN to _____.



- 1) Why we are behaving in certain ways
- 2) Why we should behave in certain ways
- 3) What we can do to change our feelings, drives, behavior.

Without theory



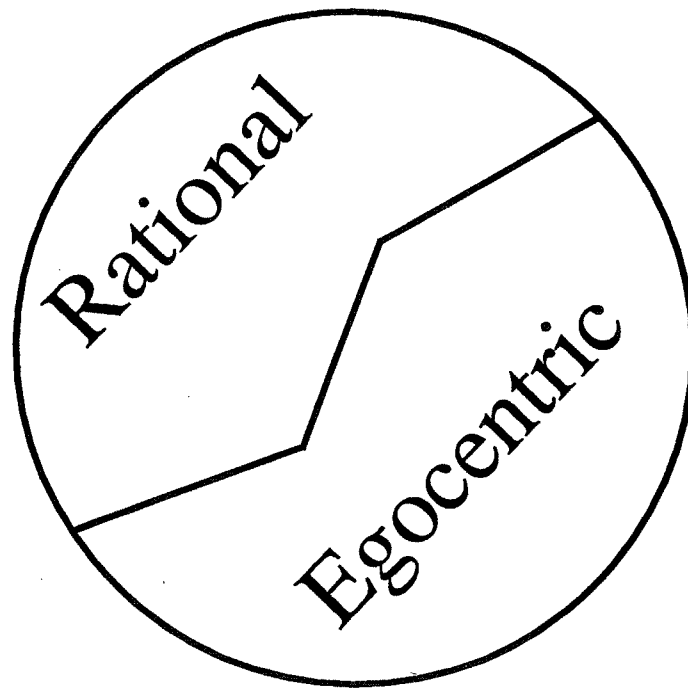
No tools for
understanding

THOUGHTS

FEELINGS

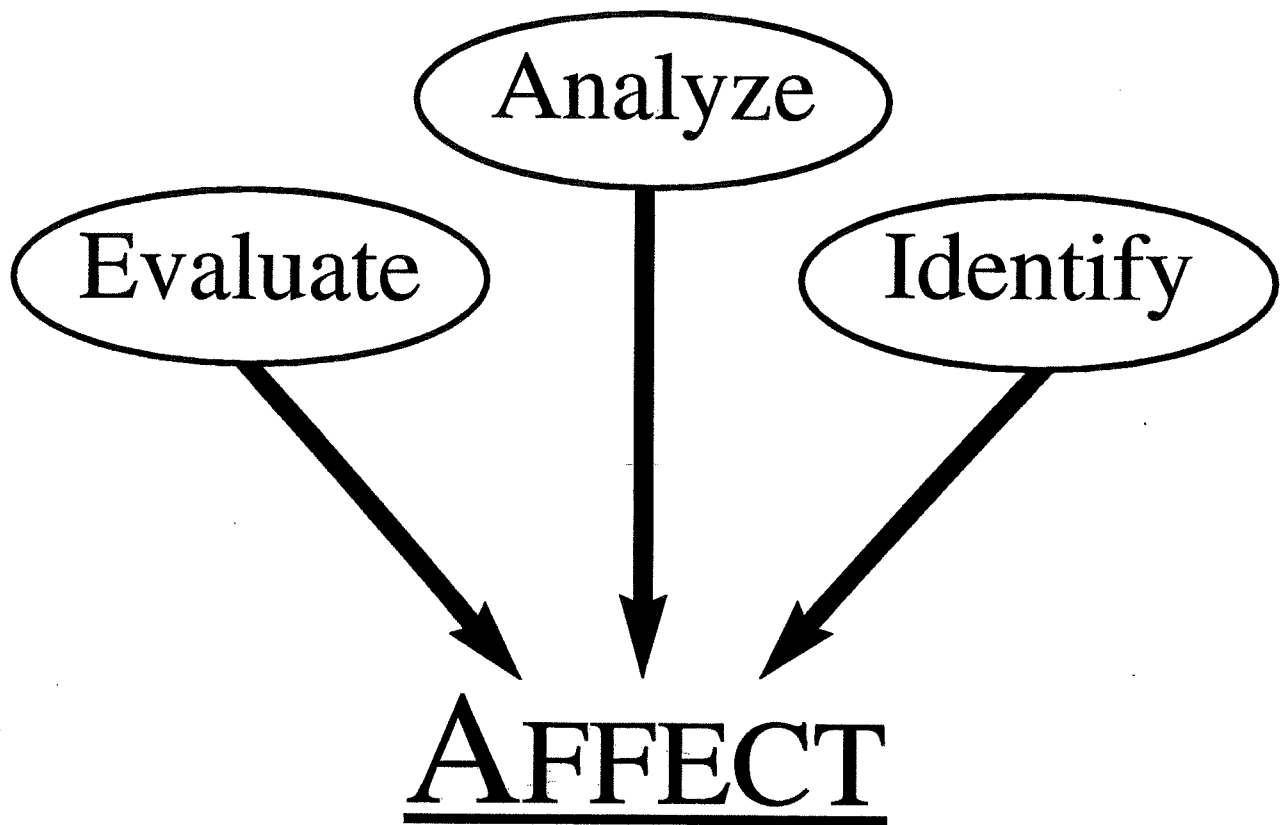
DESIRES

If I understand:



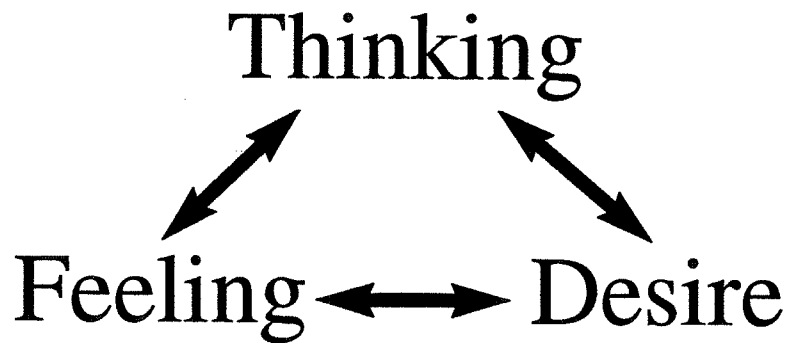
I will refuse to defend
thinking I should
REJECT.

If I realize that to be
rational I must...



I will be driven to do so

If I understand:



I know that my feelings and desires are related to my thinking.

If I change that thinking, I change the feelings and desires.

Without theory



No control over

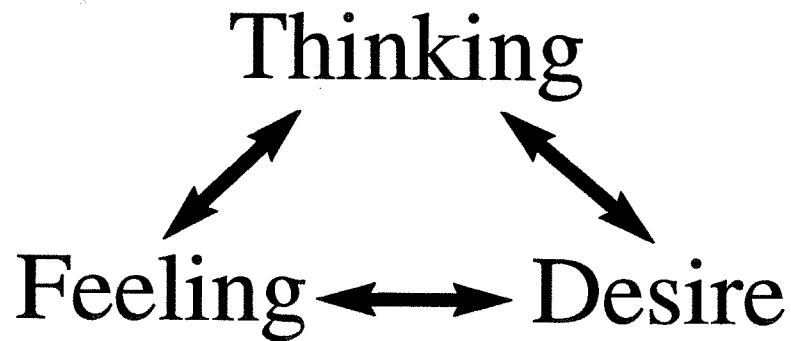


Egocentrism



ability to take
charge of
thinking!!

But by understanding:



I can effectively

TAKE

CHARGE

OF

MY

THINKING!!

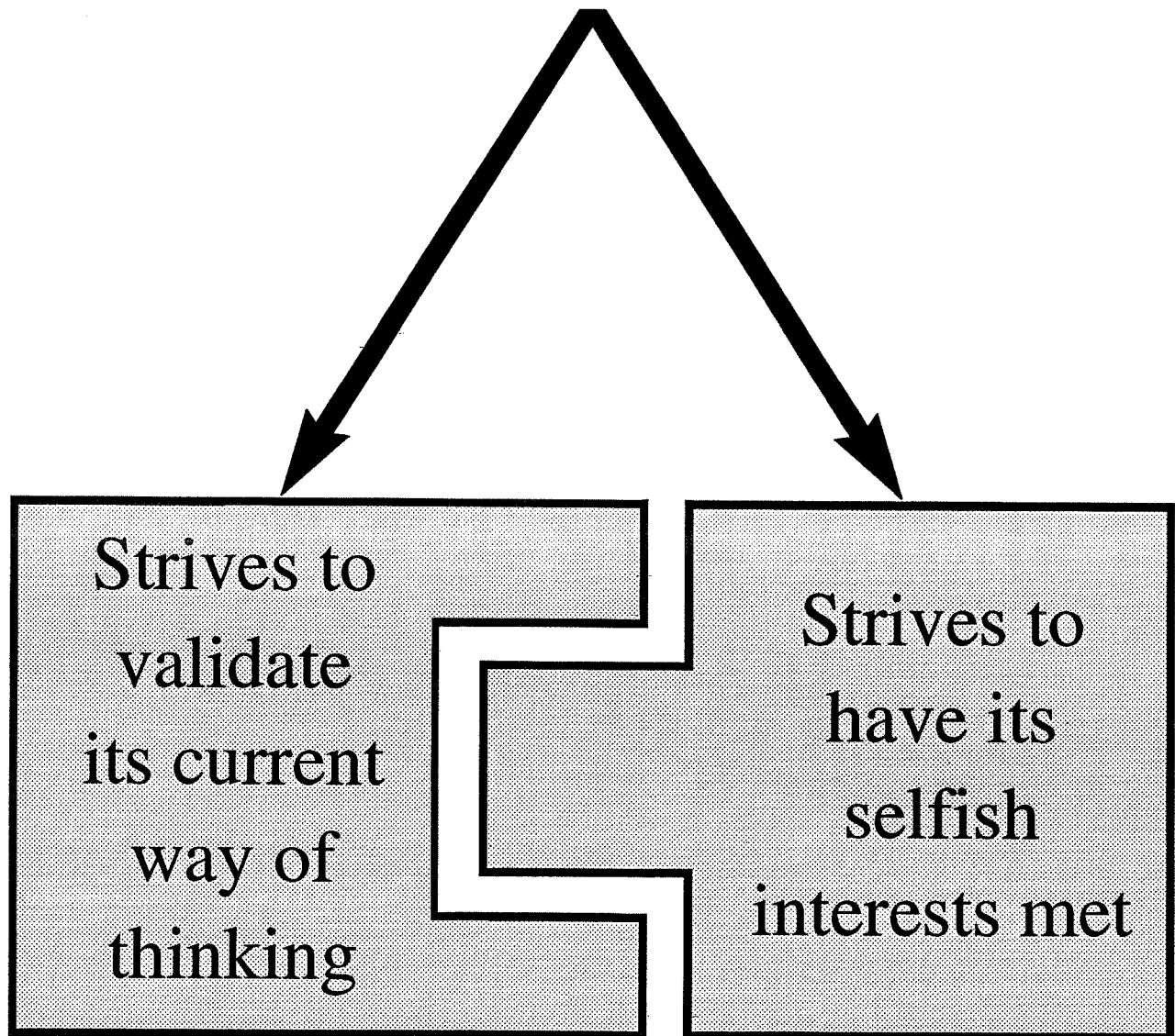
THE EGOCENTRIC MIND

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- is flexible, adaptable
- strives to be fairminded
- strives to accurately interpret information
- strives to gather and consider all relevant information.
- reacts rationally to situations by taking charge of emotions and using emotional energy productively.

MOTIVES OF THE EGO



What basic thinking
do you want your
students to do?

What behavior will
that thinking
influence?

If you want to change a...



Behavior

or

Feeling



Change the thinking
that is underlying the
behavior or feeling

How can I
improve my
teaching by
understanding
affect?

If I think learning is important,
if I understand the value in it, I am
motivated to learn, And my
behavior will reflect that.

If I don't see learning as valuable,
I will not be motivated to learn →
and therefore will not pursue
learning.