

5. Using your own words, briefly write out your understanding of each Element of Reasoning using the following format.

I would briefly define "**purpose**" as the main goal or motivation behind thinking. It is the fundamental reason why someone engages in the thinking process.

In other words, it is the driving factor behind thinking, giving direction to thinking, and helping thinking to stay on track.

For example, when we think of having a conversation with someone, the purpose could be to get to know someone, or to engage in sharing one's experiences and stories, or persuade someone, or to make a decision together. The thinking (and the conversation that follows) will vary depending on the purpose.

I would briefly define "**question at issue**" or questioning as the specific tool or mechanism that guides and advances thinking in some direction.

In other words, asking questions is what propels thinking further in serving its purpose in figuring out something.

For example, if the purpose of thinking is to get to know someone, some questions that may arise are: "If I ask this person about what they do for a living, would that help me know them better? In what ways will that question help me know them better? What questions may I ask this person if I want to know how they spend their time, without directly asking the question "How do you spend your time?""

I would briefly define "**information**" as the available knowledge that thinking can use in attempting to answer questions.

In other words, it is the set of facts or objective data, or someone's opinions, or real-world subjective experiences that thinking can be based on.

For example, when we are having a conversation to get to know someone, our thinking could use any available information such as the person's native language, or the culture they were raised in, their likes or dislikes, etc.

I would briefly define "**interpretation and inference**" as the process of deriving meaning from information in the process of thinking. In other words, it is about making sense from available data in order to guide our thinking towards conclusions. For example, during a conversation, if a person states that they are a professional chef (information), one can infer and conclude, for example, that this person very likely has a source of income, that they likely know how to cook, that they spend a lot of time on foot at work.

I would briefly define "**concepts**" as the mental models or frameworks that one has in their mind and that one works with in their thinking. In other words, concepts are established ideas or theories or principles upon which thinking is based. For example, when engaging in a conversation to know someone better, we may use concepts such as culture and the role it plays on one's upbringing, human psychology and behavior.

I would briefly define "**assumptions**" as the information that we do not definitively know to be true. In other words, they may be preconceived notions or beliefs without certainty or evidence, or statements that are taken for granted during thinking. For example, when we seek advice from a medical doctor or a lawyer, we may make assumptions such as they know the subject matter well, and that they do not have any malicious intent.

I would briefly define "**implications and consequences**" simply as the effect of a certain way of thinking or acting. In other words, it is what can be considered to logically follow from a way of thinking or acting. For example, the implication of thinking that people are inherently good can lead one to think that one can be friendly with others. The consequence of this would be acting in a compassionate manner with others. The consequence of that could be one appears more open and approachable to others.

I would briefly define "**point of view**" as the perspective from which we look at or think about a certain topic. In other words, it is the "angle" from which (or a "filter" through which) we think about something. For example, for an architect designing a building, there may be the technical point of view, i.e., thinking about materials and their tensile strength, and another point of view could be a legal point of view, i.e., laws or regulations that need to be considered when designing the building.