**Critical Thinking CT800: Module 3- Understanding the Elements of Thought**

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

a. I would briefly define [purpose, question, etc.] as follows . . .

b. In other words . . .

c. For example . . .

I would briefly define **Purpose** as follows as the goal one wants/needs to accomplish or avoid or the aim of doing something. In other words, one must have a goal(s) to know what actions, reactions, or behaviors are needed to achieve a desired outcome. For example, if my purpose is to make new friends, I need to behave in a friendly manner.

I would briefly define **Point of View** as follows as having a perspective. In other words, the way someone understands an idea or problem or situation is shaped by their experiences, knowledge, feelings, and many other factors that are unique to them. For example, my friend and I have differing points of views on how to get accepted into a highly selective college. My friend says the most important thing is having excellent grades while I believe admissions committee place more value on community service.

I would briefly define **Assumptions** as follows as ideas or thoughts that are formed based on what one knows at the time. In other words, one makes a guess if there is minimal to no information or an educated decision if there is more information available. For example, my friend doesn’t talk to me and she looks unhappy, so I think she is mad at me. But the truth is she is feeling sick.

I would briefly define **Implications** as follows as what may result from taking an action (or inaction) on an idea or thought. In other words, if you think this way you would act one way but if you think another way you would act in very different way. For example, if I think my friend is avoiding me because she’s mad, I might ignore her, too. But if I think my friend is avoiding me because she might be sick then I would ask if she’s OK.

I would briefly define **Information** as follows as data. In other words, inputs one uses to produce an output. For example, before I buy a pair of pickleball shoes, I do online research which includes reading customer reviews, my friends’ recommendations and my own experience with the brand of shoe.

I would briefly define **Inferences** as follows as drawing a conclusion. In other words, one makes a determination (e.g., good or bad, right or wrong or neutral, nice or mean) based on the information (i.e., inputs) received. There are a variety of inputs (e.g., facts, feelings, experiences, etc.). So, the output will vary depending on the inputs. For example, I decided to hire a certain pickleball coach based on the number of gold medals won by his students. But if I had known that the coach had a negative coaching style, I would have decided he would not be a good fit for me.

I would briefly define **Concepts** as ideas formed by a person’s mind. In other words, the way someone forms an or thought is shaped by their experiences, knowledge, assumptions, feelings, and many other factors that are unique to them. For example, my concept of a good meal is that it must include an appetizer, entrée with wine pairings, dessert and coffee. While my husband’s concept of a good meal is that it must be a keto diet- meat and vegetables only- and no alcohol.

I would briefly define **Question at Issue** as follows as the “who, what, when, why, and how” of a situation, an idea, or behavior. In other words, we ask questions to gain a fuller understanding of a situation and we ask questions when an idea or action may not be appropriate or oppose what is accepted. For example, many teenagers are on social media these days. Given the recent findings that social media can harm teenagers, why should teenagers be allowed to use social media at all?