1. **Purpose**

I would briefly define purpose as our end goal or aim.

In other words, what do we expect to gain at the end of the process, or for what reason are we doing what we are doing.

For example, our goal in obtaining employment might be to make money. Here the employment is a means or vehicle through which we reach our goal or purpose, which is to make money.

Purpose might not be conscious. For example, we might take on a job with the purpose of gaining experience, but not know why we need that experience.

When defining purpose, we might suffer from sociocentric bias (get a job because everyone else is getting one) or egocentric bias, for example we may say that we want a specific job for experience, but actually we want the job because of the money or prestige associated with the job.

1. **Point of View**

I would briefly define point of view as the 'terms of reference' or perspective from which we view something or from which we think.

In other words, it refers to the position we take when we view something.

For example, if we imagine two people on a double decker bus, one on the lower deck and one on the upper deck, we could see that their views are different even though they are in the same bus. The person sitting in the top deck would be able to view further down the road because of his higher viewpoint for example.

Our points of view are subject to biases depending on the 'lenses' through which we view or think. Our upbringings and prior logic or understanding of the world impacts our point of view. Human instinct is to protect our existing points of view, which is one of the barriers to critical thinking. Again we can see that egocentric bias. (such as self centredness) and sociocentric bias (social class, religion, country) affect how we perceive the world and think (affects our point of view).

1. **Questions/Problems/Issues**

I would briefly define questions/problems/issues in their role as critical thinking elements as what are the things that we need to know or answer, or complexities that are preventing us from achieving our goals.

In other words, what is the roadblock standing in our way or main issue that needs to be resolved in order to achieve our goals. Depending on what we are thinking aboutm and our goals, this might take the form of either a question, problem or issue , or combination of these.

For example if our goal was to make money, the question we would probably ask is what methods are available to me to make money. Questions/Problems/ Issues are sensitive to our goals and are therefore specific to our stated goal. For example changing the goal from making money to making a specific amount of money say $100,000 might change the question to which jobs have a salary of $100,000 and what issues or problems might I face in obtaining such a job.

1. **Information**

I would briefly define Information as relating to the facts and data that we use to arrive at and support our conclusions.

In other words, the evidence we have gathered, or facts used to support our conclusions.

For example, if we were thinking about how much our grocery shopping is likely to cost, we would use information in the form of a shopping list, or ask family members for their requirements in order to collate a list. This list can be classified as information, that we can use to support our conclusion of what the grocery shop is likely to cost.

Information may be derived from pre determined facts (grocery prices), or sourced from information obtained and related information (family shopping list).

We need to be objective in our information and fact gathering. Instinctively we seek out information that aligns with our point of view whether that may be individual (egocentric) or within a group (socio centric). This means we need to seek out information that both supports and does not support our conclusions, and apply critical judgement to it. Here we also need to ask what information do we need to answer the question at hand.

1. **Inferences/Interpretation**

I would briefly define inferences and interpretations as what meaning do we derive from the information collected, and how does this meaning relate to other meanings ?

In other words, what does the information collected show us, and does the information collected provide evidence of the existence of related information ? Does the information support our existing logic, or does it show discrepancies that might prove a new logic ?

For example, a child might throw a tantrum for multiple reasons. We might interpret a tantrum as the child is hungry if it has been some time since fed. Alternatively, we may attribute the tantrum to tiredness if the child has had an overly active day. Inferences relate to what implications we can derive from the information. For example, the existence of plants implies the existence of oxygen - plants cannot survive without oxygen. Inferences are indirectly information or evidence from the analysis or interpretation of existing evidence. We use inferences and interpretation to arrive at a conclusion.

1. **Concepts**

I would briefly define concepts as proven theories or laws that work consistently within defined boundaries.

In other words, we could call concepts models or logic that allow us to quickly determine results based on pre-determined laws or rules.

For example we have mathematical laws and formulas to calculate the area of a circle, we also have laws such as boiling point of water. The idea here is that they always hold true (as long as we respect boundaries – e.g. perfectly round circle), such that we can use them in multiple ways. We could use them as a shortcut. for example instead of calculating area of a circle manually every time, formula speeds up. calculation.

Concepts could be related to each other, and we could potentially create inferences that could lead to new information. In economics, Supply and Demand are related theories. Laws allow us to set boundaries and limits. The laws of gravity impose boundaries. This can be used to filter out blatantly incorrect information.

1. **Assumptions**

I would briefly define Assumptions as interpretations that we make without considering evidence.

In other words, based on our experiences, education and points of view, we take as granted, or without question the existence and accuracy of some interpretations.

For example, when we see a smartly dressed person, depending on our experiences or points of view, we would assume that the person is one of - wealthy /highly educated/ of a certain social standard. Similarly, based on past event results, we may assume that the same results are likely to re-occur. Having fallen on an icy pavement in the past, we are likely to make the assumption that icy pavements are slippery.

Assumptions might commonly be used as a starting point, probably because an assumption has held true in the past, so we would assume it is likely to hold true again. However, the danger is that because an assumption has held true in the past, we treat as certain it will hold true in all cases/future, without considering evidence to justify whether the assumption still holds true.

1. **Implications/Consequences**

I would briefly define implications and consequences as what meaning can we derive from the conclusion that we have come to.

In other words, what does our conclusion make obvious? How does the conclusion help us understand the world? What are the second and third order effects of our conclusion?

For example we may come to the conclusion that a liquid freezes at a specific temperature. Therefore an implication of this conclusion is that we need to keep the liquid above a certain temperature if we want it to remain liquid.