Critical Thinking, Emotions & Decision Making

MG Workshop
Wednesday, June 1st
What we have to do & How we do it

Decision Making
- One’s ability to identify alternatives for a problem and selecting the alternative, which presents the greatest selected utility.

Critical Thinking
- Reasoned, purposive, and reflective thinking used to make decisions, solve problems, and master concepts.

I was gratified to be able to answer promptly. I said I don’t know.
~Mark Twain
Critical Thinking

**Dispositions**
- Engagement
- Cognitive Maturity
- Innovativeness

**Styles**
- Engagement
- Seeking

**Skills**
- Interpretation
- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Inference
- Explanation
- Self-Regulation

“How do I know what I think until I see what I say?”
~E. M. Forster
Disposition influences our ability to naturally acquire skill; however, consistent skill practice can change our disposition.
Styles

**Seeking Information**
- Aware of biases & predispositions
- Open to other points of view
- Aware that problems are complex
- Intellectually curious
- Want to know the truth

**Engagement**
- Seek opportunities to use reasoning
- Anticipate situations that require reasoning
- Confident in reasoning ability
SKILLS ABILITIES KNOWLEDGE ABILITIES KNOWLEDGE
CT Skills

**Interpretation**
- Categorization
- Clarifying meaning
- Decoding significance

**Analysis**
- Examining ideas
- Analyzing arguments
- Analyzing assumptions

- What is this?
- Where does this information “Fit?”
- How does this relate to what I already know?
- Why is this important?

- What is the point?
- What is the issue or position?
- What are the assumptions?
- What evidence or information supports the position?
- What is the line of thinking?
CT Skills Continued

Evaluation
- Assessing claims
- Assessing arguments
- Assigning value

Inference
- Finding alternatives
- Drawing conclusions
- Making recommendations

- Clear
- Accurate
- Precise
- Relevant
- Depth
- Breadth
- Logic

- Recognizing that problems have a range of solutions and that decisions fall along a range from better to worse.
- Project a range of potential consequences for alternatives.
Every leaf traps CO₂.

PLANT FOR THE PLANET

Donate Trees on
www.plant-for-the-planet.org
## CT Skills Continued

### Explanation
- Stating results
- Justifying procedures
- Presenting arguments

### Self-Regulation
- Self examination: Stopping to ask yourself important questions about your beliefs
- Self correction: Changing your beliefs if it is warranted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State your position</th>
<th>What is my belief?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Defend your position</td>
<td>Why do I believe this to be true?</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What evidence of information do I have?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support points with information and evidence</td>
<td>Can I justify my belief with evidence and information?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support points with valid assumptions</td>
<td>If yes, continue to hold this belief.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Re-state your position</td>
<td>If no, question my belief and search for more information.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>I may need to change what I believe...</td>
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THE GREAT GAME OF LIFE PRESENTS

The Never-Ending Fight

THE BRAIN VS THE HEART

COMPLEX, INNOVATIVE
AND MANKINDS

FEARLESS, INTUITIVE
AND MASTER OF
BIGGEST MYSTERY

THE UNEXPECTED

24/7 EVERY SINGLE MOMENT
EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD

IN THE RING IS WHERE IT IS. NO HOME TV. NO RADIO.
What is EET?

- It is a way to make decisions by engaging both your emotions and logic
- It promotes self-awareness, dialogue, and empowerment
- It a new way to engage students in the learning process
- It is the precursor to Emotionally Engaged Leadership
THE BRAIN

BY JACKSON MOHSENIN

Made with love in Barcelona, Spain. Inspired by Colorblind for iPhone.

FRONTAL LOBE
The Frontal Lobe deals chiefly with cognition and memory. Ability to concentrate, judgement, consequence analysis, problem solve, plan, personality (including emotional traits).

PIERIAL LOBE
The Parietal Lobe plays an important role in integrating information from several senses. Also processes spatial orientation, some parts of speech, visual perception, and pain and touch sensations.

OCCIPITAL LOBE
The Occipital Lobe is the visual processing center of the brain. It contains most of what is referred to as the “visual cortex”. It is also the part of the brain where dreams originate.

TEMPORAL LOBE
The Temporal Lobe is the chief auditory receptive area and contains the Hippocampus, which is the chief region where long-term memory is formed. Also deals with high-level visual processing (faces & scenes).

CEREBELLUM
The Cerebellum chief function are motion-related activities. Contributes to coordination, precession, accurate timing, but does not initiate movement. Regulates fear and pleasure responses, and some cognitive functions such as attention and language.

BRAIN STEM
Serves as brain’s warning system and sets alertness level.
Foundational Awareness

- First point of reflection in establishing emotionally engaged thinking
- Leader becomes aware of his or her emotions related to a problem or decision
- Participants are asked to consider personal implications of a problem

What kind of plants make me happy?
Authentic Engagement

- Focuses on one’s ability to truly relate to the problem
- Attention is directed to how a problem is identified cognitively
- Relates to how the individual sees him or herself in the scenario (how does this problem connect with who I am, what is my place with respect to the problem)
- This emotional response is based upon a perceived situation (anticipating what will happen) and can thus influence how the situation is approached

What kind of plants make me happy and can grow in my zone?
Connective Analysis

- Leaders are challenged with the big picture
- It is the means for creating true meaning from an experience or problem
- The leader now must relate this experience to others
- Leaders are also more inclined to be open to others’ ideas, emotions, and reactions to the same experience or problem

What kind of plants make me happy, grow in my zone and are compatible with …?
Empowerment and Change

- Participants are moved from understanding and attitude change to action.
- The action stemming from this step forms the foundation for influencing others and building large-scale organizational and community.
- The leader has the potential to influence sustainable change and create solutions for the complex adaptive challenges that exist within our ever-changing world.

What will I do to cultivate plants that make me happy, grow in my zone, are compatible and I won’t kill?
I appreciate your trimming that pear tree for me, Crankshaft.

Good... Now I can go back to what I was doing!

I hate to admit it... but Crankshaft does seem to have a way with plants.

He's sort of an uncooperative extension service.
Wrap Up

- All leaders have to make decisions
- Use a process that is consistent with your goals
- Critical Thinking is a Means not an Ends
- EET promotes CT through Emotions
- Allows for more authentic practice in decision making