

Student Thinking Continuum

<i>BEGINNING THINKER</i>	<i>DEVELOPING THINKER</i>	<i>DEEP THINKER</i>
<p>ONE-SIDED Focuses only on one's own or a single perspective. Exhibits bias. Doesn't pursue alternatives and may stick to initial observation or stance even when new ideas and POV are presented.</p>	<p>CONSIDERING VIEWPOINTS</p>	<p>MULTI-DIMENSIONAL Identifies alternative and competing points of view, opinions, solutions, and ideas. Presents arguments from more than one side. Recognizes how POV changes how one views a situation.</p>
<p>OBVIOUS & GENERAL Recognizes only the most obvious and salient aspects, qualities, or objects. Falls to look deeply, to see what is obscure, partial, or missing.</p>	<p>DESCRIBING WHAT'S THERE</p>	<p>DETAILED & ELABORATED Attention to details, hidden, obscure, and missing aspects. Finds nuance and ambiguity. Identifies patterns. Generates possible interpretations w/o having to definitively name it.</p>
<p>BASELESS Presents assertions, opinions, and interpretations as facts. Fails to back up claims with evidence or presents weak and easily refuted evidence. Circular arguments.</p>	<p>REASONING WITH EVIDENCE</p>	<p>SUPPORTED Supports positions with relevant evidence. Constructs balanced and well-organized arguments. Identifies and deals with alternative evidence.</p>
<p>SIMPLE & FIXED Accepts simple explanations quickly without probing. Doesn't look for evidence, support, or alternatives. Closure-oriented. May stick to refuted ideas because they are one's own.</p>	<p>BUILDING EXPLANATIONS</p>	<p>MULTIFACTED & EVOLVING Proposes tentative theories and explanations that are refined and modified as new evidence presents itself. Alternatives are explored. Limits are tested. Remains open.</p>
<p>CURSORY & TRIVIAL Makes obvious and basic connections based on surface features. May connect to one's own experience in a tangential way. Connections don't expand the learning.</p>	<p>MAKING CONNECTIONS</p>	<p>THOROUGH & INSIGHTFUL Connects within and across disciplines. Identifies deep structures, fundamental links and patterns that enhance one's understanding. Generalizes, builds theories, explanations, and metaphors.</p>
<p>TANGENTIAL Focuses on tangential or unimportant elements, details, or ideas. Misses core themes. Fails to generalize beyond the specific.</p>	<p>CAPTURING THE HEART AND FORMING CONCLUSIONS</p>	<p>CORE Recognizes but doesn't get distracted by superficial elements. Synthesizes and distills relevant information. Zeros in on core themes, issues, and ideas that transcend the specific.</p>
<p>NARROW & CLOSED Sticks to simple, close-ended questions with easy answers. Questions only scratch the surface and don't push or play with the topic.</p>	<p>WONDERING</p>	<p>BROAD & GENERATIVE Poses generative questions of deep personal interest that can guide personal and group inquiry. Asks big, encompassing questions that get at complex issues.</p>
<p>SUPERFICIAL Narrows thinking and ideas to what is immediately apparent. Doesn't explore below the surface or question information. Sees things in black and white. Closes thinking early on in the process.</p>	<p>UNCOVERING COMPLEXITY</p>	<p>DEEP Looks beneath the surface to explore deeper meaning and structures. Pushes boundaries. Identifies layers. Finds insightful connections. Remains open. Shows awareness of potential breadth of topics and ideas.</p>

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"Adapted from the Artful Thinking "Assessing Thinking: 6 Continua"

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