Elements of Reasoning

- **Point of View**: Frames of reference, perspectives, orientations
- **Purpose**: Goals, objectives
- **Implication and Consequence**: Possible or real outcomes
- **Assumption**: Beliefs taken for granted
- **Concept**: Theories, models, definitions, principles
- **Information**: Data, observations, facts, experiences
- **Interpretation & Inference**: Conclusions, solutions
- **Question**: Problems, issues

All Thinking Is Defined by the Eight Elements

### Apply These Standards to Assess Thinking

**Accuracy**
- Free from errors or distortions, true
- How could we check on that? How could we find out if that is true?
- How could we verify or test that?

**Encompassing multiple viewpoints**
- Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?

**Clarity**
- Understandable, the meaning can be grasped
- Could you elaborate? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?

**Depth**
- Containing complexities and multiple interrelationships
- What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?

**Fairness**
- Justifiable, not self-serving or one-sided
- Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

**Logic**
- The parts make sense together, no contradictions
- Does this make sense together? Does your first paragraph fit in with your last? Does what you say follow from the evidence?

**Precision**
- Exact to the necessary level of detail
- Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?

**Relevance**
- Relating to the matter at hand
- How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?

**Significance**
- Focusing on the important, not trivial
- Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?