



**Elements of  
Thought**  
8 Structures to  
Define Thinking

**Purpose**

What is the goal, objective, function?

**Question at Issue**

What is the key problem or question?

**Information**

What are the key data, facts, evidence, observations, experiences, reasons?

**Interpretation & Inference**

What are the key conclusions?

**Concepts**

What are the theories, definitions, laws, principles, models used?

**Assumptions**

What are the presuppositions, axioms?

**Implications & Consequences**

What follows logically?

**Point of View**

What is the frame of reference, perspective, orientation, world view?

**Think  
Create**

**Communicate**

EKU students will enhance their  
critical and creative thinking and  
communication skills.

**THE POWER OF  
MAROON**

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## Intellectual Standards to Assess Thinking

### Clarity

understandable; the meaning can be grasped by the average reader

### Accuracy

free from errors or distortion; true

### Precision

exact to the necessary level of detail

### Relevance

relating to the matter at hand

### Depth

containing complexities and multiple interrelationships

### Breadth

encompassing multiple viewpoints

### Logic

the parts make sense together; no contradictions

### Significance

focusing on the important; not trivial

### Fairness

justifiable; not self-serving or one sided

**EKU will develop informed, critical and creative thinkers who communicate effectively.**



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