

**Preparation Exercise: Identifying the Elements of Thought in Feminist Theory**

**Readings:**

- Paul and Linda Elder, "The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking," pp. 3, 6, 8-9 and 11.
- Chapter 2: "What Is a Theory?," "Creating Knowledge," "Socially Lived Theorizing" (WLMP 51-62)
- Patricia Hill Collins, "Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness," (WLMP, 76-81)

**Purpose of the assignment:**

- (1) reinforce your understanding of the **elements of thought**
- (2) recognize the relationship between key concepts in feminist theory, **the elements of thought**, and **universal intellectual standards**

**Requirements:**

Review Paul and Elder, "The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking," read the narrative of chapter 2 and "Black Feminist Thought" by Patricia Hill Collins, and answer the following questions:

- (1) On pages 51-52, your textbook authors offer a list of questions to ask in evaluating the statement: "Poor people are poor because they're lazy." Make a two-column table comparing this list to the **elements of thought** outlined by Richard Paul and Linda Elder. How do these lists compare?
- (2) Consider the concept of socially lived theorizing. What **elements of thought** in the Paul-Elder critical thinking framework does this concept address? How could you re-articulate this concept as a statement about the **elements of thought**?
- (3) Consider the concept of standpoint epistemology. What **elements of thought** in the Paul-Elder critical thinking framework does this concept address? How could you re-articulate this concept as a statement about the **elements of thought**?
- (4) Based on your answers to the questions above, what **elements of thought** would you say receive particularly strong emphasis in feminist theory as it is described by your textbook authors?
- (5) Patricia Hill Collins argues that "Partiality and not universality is the condition of being heard; individuals and groups forwarding knowledge claims without owning their

**Text in Red**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Elements of Reasoning**

**Text in Blue**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Intellectual Standards**

**Text in Green**

Indicates the infusion of the  
**Intellectual Traits**

*[Bracketed Text]*

Indicates the indirect use of  
critical thinking **[Elements]**,  
**[Standards]**, or **[Traits]**

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Framework for Critical Thinking](#)

position are deemed less credible than those who do.” Re-phrase this statement in terms of the **elements of thought** [*Elements – Point of View*]. Based on your reading of “The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking,” do you think Richard Paul and Linda Elder would agree with Collins? Why or why not? (See especially pp. 8-9 for **universal intellectual standards** used to evaluate reasoning)

**Due date: Thursday, September 10**