

***Developing and sustaining a critical thinking initiative across  
your institution***

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**Principle 1:**

**Do your homework and lay your groundwork**

- What questions do you still need to research? (Question at hand)
- What groundwork still needs to be put into place for you and others? (Information)
- Whose perspectives should you consider as you lay out your vision for critical thinking? (Point of view)

## **Principle 2:**

### **Build your partnerships and identify your allies.**

- Who are those faculty, staff or other colleagues whose purpose and/or mission aligns with your interest in critical thinking?  
(Purpose, Point of view)
- What are the explicit and implicit values and agendas of these possible partners and how can you bring these people to the table?  
(Assumptions, Interpretation)
- Are there other collaborators (regional schools, community members, personal mentors) you might cultivate for your critical thinking project? (Point of view, Information)

## **Principle 3:**

### **Pilot test, assess, refine**

- What is the curricular or organizational change or innovation that you wish to ‘test drive’? (Concepts) Who can help you make visible “what it looks like” when the change is complete? What will success look like in one year, three years, 10 years? (Consequences)
- What information will you need to gather while you are piloting your critical thinking innovation? (Information) As you are thinking about how to operationalize your innovation, what are you wondering about? Worried about? (Questions)
- How will you “close the feedback loop” with stakeholders and interpret the info (good, bad, ugly) that you gather? How will this information inform your next steps and help you expand your reach? (Interpretation, Consequences, Point of view)

## **Principle 4:**

### **Demonstrate you are information-savvy**

- Even if a key colleague forgets every detail about your CT program: what are 2-3 fundamental and powerful ideas or concepts you want them to never forget about critical thinking and/or your program? (Concepts, Purpose)
- How do you make explicit these concepts/ideas in your literature and other information you share with colleagues and stakeholders? (Information, Point of view)
- What are the free and inexpensive ways that information gets communicated in your organization or across your work culture (think: email, meetings, flyers, posters, keynote events)? Where are your sources for information and ideas about critical thinking? How do you tap into these and help others do the same? (Information, Point of view, Concepts)

## **Principle 5:**

**Remember, attitude is everything: be flexible, learn to stretch, create excitement**

- Describe your vision of critical thinking in your organization in one sentence (Concept, Purpose):
- What are the catalysts that push change forward in your organization (leaders, money, student voices, etc.)? How will you harness these for your efforts? What are the barriers you will encounter? (Assumptions, Implications)
- How can you use existing and new public and private avenues for rewarding and celebrating your chief allies and early adopters? Be creative! (Information, Point of view)

## **Principle 6:**

### **Pay Attention to Readiness!**

(See handouts on self-assessment and org. assessment)