Thinker in the Library: Infusing Critical Thinking into the Undergraduate Information Literacy Curriculum

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Current Information Literacy (IL) Model

- Information Literacy 1 – ENG 111 (2 - 3 Hours)

- Information Literacy 2 – ENG 200 (2 - 3 Hours)

- Information Literacy 3 (IL Thread Classes) – Upper level, disciplinary courses

- Assessment Method: 3 – 4 Worksheets & Final Test

- IL Focus: Use of proprietary databases, Keyword & Subject Searching, Use of Boolean logic, citation instruction, and ***evaluation of resources***
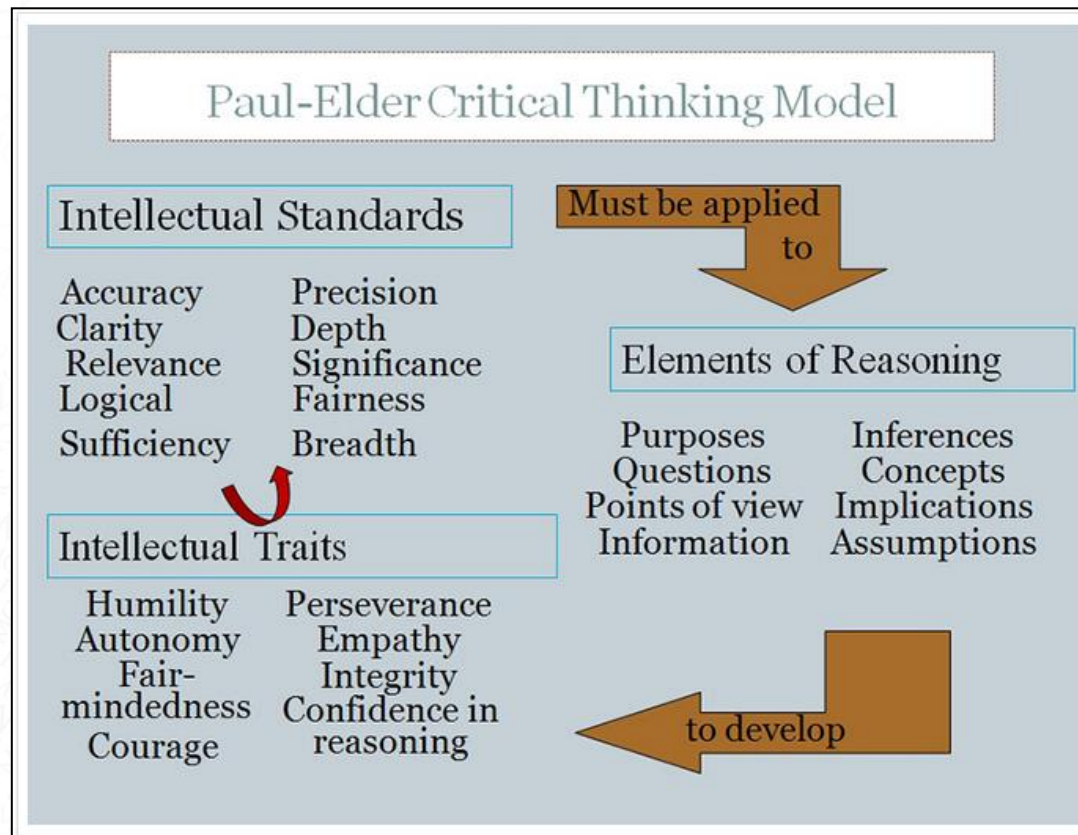
Recognizing the Need to Infuse Critical Thinking Standards into IL Instruction

- Evaluation of sources an after thought

- Students able to find sources and cite sources
  - Easy to remedy with small group/1:1 meetings

- Shaky reasoning for choice of reasoning

- Google Advanced Search = problem further exacerbated
  - abundance of mediocre / bad sources mixed with good ones

If they don't learn this now then when?

Quality Enhancement Program (QEP): "Think Strong"/ Critical Thinking

- QEP adopted the Paul & Elder Model for teaching critical thinking

Paul-Elder Critical Thinking Model

Intellectual Standards

Accuracy · Precision
Clarity · Depth
Relevance · Significance
Logical · Fairness
Sufficiency · Breadth

Must be applied to

Elements of Reasoning

Purposes · Inferences
Questions · Concepts
Points of view · Implications
Information · Assumptions

Intellectual Traits

Humility · Perseverance
Autonomy · Empathy
Fair-mindedness · Integrity
Courage · Confidence in reasoning

to develop

- Paul, R. and Elder, L. (2010). *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools.* Dillon Beach: Foundation for Critical Thinking Press.
- Nosich, G. M. (2013). *Learning to think things through: A guide to critical thinking across the curriculum*. Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall.

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Infusion in IL Model

- Start small
- Apply strategy across curriculum
- Visual Aids
- Purposeful use of the language of critical thinking
- Re-phrase questions on worksheets to include elements of critical thinking – from topic definition to citation accuracy
- Added bonus: library part of campus dialogue

Thank you!