Elements of Thought

Introduction

The elements of thought are the basic building blocks of thinking, the essential dimensions of all reasoning whenever and wherever it occurs. There is, in other words, a general logic to the use of reason. These terms are the fundamental language of reasoning. Consider each term from the perspective of the sender and the receiver.

- 1. Purpose, Goal, or End in View
- 2. <u>Question at issue</u> (or problem to be solved)
- 3. Frame of Reference

a. Roles

- b. World View
- 4. The Empirical Dimension of Our Reasoning
- 5. The Conceptual Dimension of Our Reasoning
- 6. Assumptions
- 7. Implications



- 8. Inferences
- 9. <u>Consequences</u> Where our reasoning takes us
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