

more complete discussion of thinking skills as the third component of the model.

Thinking Skills

Thinking skills are purposely placed at the apex of the model because it is these skills that are primarily responsible for an individual's ability to adjust and cope with change. Without them a person is virtually doomed to the fate of the dinosaurs.

Any discussion of thinking skills is subject to controversy because they are elusive in their characteristics. At the risk of opening controversy we will present a definition of thinking skills for the sake of clarity and discussion.

Thinking skills usually include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

The ability to make decisions based on evidence.

The ability to extrapolate and generalize from information as well as evaluate the validity of generalizations.

The ability to form and evaluate inferences.

The ability to form relationships between seemingly unrelated events or ideas.

The ability to solve unique qualitative and quantitative problems.

These skills must be practiced in all areas of the curriculum all the time, which again is symbolized by the interlocking components of the model.

There is a paradox attached to some aspects of thinking skills. That they are important is accepted by virtually everyone at every level