

Elements of Thought Exercise: “Applying the Elements”

(Based on Paul and Elder’s, *Critical Thinking: Concepts and Tools*, pp. 3-5, 8-10)

<p><u>CRITICAL THINKING (ELEMENTS) SKILLS APPLIED:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify/Discuss key concepts with accuracy • Define the issue(s) at hand with as much clarity as possible • Demonstrate a clear and obvious understanding of film’s purpose/message (relevance and significance) • Be able to recognize and appreciate the depth and breadth of the film subject or topic to avoid superficial interpretations in fairness, while considering different point of view(s) 	<p><u>INSTRUCTIONS:</u> Analyze and evaluate an event or a film to discern fundamental concepts in the study of politics.</p> <p><u>NOTE:</u> During the event or film, please record your thoughts, impressions and interpretations regarding the elements below. I will review your responses for depth and breadth to determine how well you can apply the elements to your thinking.</p>
Elements of Thought	Comments
<p>Purpose: The main purpose of this film is.... <i>State the purpose as accurately and precisely as possible</i></p>	
<p>Question, Problem or Issue: The [key focus] that the film is addressing is.... <i>What does the film clarify or convey to the audience?</i></p>	
<p>Information: The most important information in this film is.... <i>Are the facts, experiences, data or examples used to support claims clear, accurate and relevant? Give example.</i></p>	

<p>Interpretations/Inferences: The film interpretation is consistent with... <i>What significant conclusions can be drawn from the inferences made?</i> Give example.</p>	
<p>Concepts: The key concepts highlighted in this film... <i>Record the most important idea(s) you have to understand in order to understand the film's logic or reasoning.</i></p>	
<p>Assumptions: The main assumption(s) underlying this film is (are)... <i>Does the film take some issues for granted (depth)?</i> Give example.</p>	
<p>Implications/Consequences: • If we take this film seriously, the implications are.... • If we fail to take this film seriously, the implications are.... <i>What are the broad consequences (breadth) that follow from either position?</i></p>	
<p>Point(s) of View: The main point(s) of view presented in the film is (are)... <i>From what point of view am I looking at this film?</i> <i>In fairness, is there another point of view I should consider?</i></p>	