cultures of thinking

ARE PLACES IN WHICH A GROUP’S COLLECTIVE, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL, THINKING IS VALUED, VISIBLE, AND ACTIVELY PROMOTED AS PART OF THE REGULAR, DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE OF ALL GROUP MEMBERS.
Spencer Foundation 1998-2000

Stiftelsen Carpe Vitam 2000-2005

Bialik College with the support of Abe & Vera Dorevitch 2005-2015

Dow Chemical Oakland Schools 2007-2015
ARE PLACES IN WHICH A GROUP’S COLLECTIVE, AS WELL AS INDIVIDUAL, THINKING IS VALUED, VISIBLE, AND ACTIVELY PROMOTED AS PART OF THE REGULAR, DAY-TO-DAY EXPERIENCE OF ALL GROUP MEMBERS.
What Kinds of Thinking Do We Value?
What Kinds of Thinking Do We Value?

- What does this remind you of?
- Where else have you seen something like this?
- How does this connect to the topics we’ve been studying?
- Where does this fit within the grand scheme of things?
- What is it like? What is it not like?
- If you were to group these things, what would go together?
- What’s a metaphor that might fit this?
Simple **Tools**, used in one’s learning to support specific thinking moves.

**Structures and scaffolds** through which we explore, discuss, document, and direct our thinking and learning.

**Patterns of behavior** that we adopt to help us use our minds well in new situations.
A routine for the critical analysis and application of new information and ideas
What are the core ideas? What is most exciting, interesting, and insightful about them?

What are the potential problems or downsides? What are alternative points of view? Prioritize these.

How might we address the most important problems or plan to improve on the core ideas?
In Utopia, where every man has a right to everything, they all know that if care is taken to keep the public stores full, no private man can want anything; for among them there is no unequal distribution, so that no man is poor, none in necessity; and though no man has anything, yet they are all rich; for what can make a man so rich as to lead a serene and cheerful life, free from anxieties.

– from *Utopia*, Thomas More
Actively Promoting Thinking
Creating Powerful Learning Opportunities

Sunday, October 19, 14

Key Qualities of Powerful Learning Opportunities

**Novel Application**: Applying, organizing, interpreting, evaluating, or synthesizing prior knowledge in novel situations.

**Meaningful Inquiry**: Develop new understandings and insights that extend one’s current understanding.

**Effective Communication**: Expressing, representing, justifying, supporting, and communicating one’s ideas.

**Perceived Worth**: Having value and purpose beyond merely doing work for the teacher.