

Section 5 and 6

Habits of Mind



Thinking Interdependently

(This page is for teachers and students)

Thinking Interdependently

“... [N]o man is an island. A warrior of light dances with his companions, but does not place the responsibility of his actions on anyone else.”

-- Paulo Coelho

Men are social beings. We simply cannot survive, grow or learn successfully while being all alone. The importance of group dynamics should never be underestimated for we understand the value of unity and the power it brings. Cooperative humans realize that all of us together are more powerful, intellectually and physically, than any one individual. Often we congregate in groups and find it meaningful to share with one another new ideas or work towards a common goal.

To think interdependently requires a willingness to accept feedback from others. The humility to learn from others and seek clarification when in doubt is also crucial. One must also possess the ability to justify one's ideas and test the feasibility of solution/strategies. Being able to be listen with empathy and understanding; being flexible, being open to new ideas and having an intrinsic joy in learning would make one highly self motivated and a successful **independent** learner. Thus cultivating the right attitude towards learning is crucial platform for one to become an effective team-player.

Interdependency thrives when individuals are capable of building lasting, rich and highly productive relationships with others. Such individuals are also aware that in order to build a successful interdependent relationship, they should be highly aware of their self development and be sincere in their interaction with others. When this is achieved, the foundation for thinking and learning interdependently can be successfully built upon and developed.

Indicators of Thinking Interdependently

When learners think and work interdependently they exhibit the following qualities:

- They have the ability to empathize/ care about the feelings and thoughts of others
 - Sensitive towards the needs and feelings of others.
 - Sincere and genuine in their interaction with others.
 - Ability to show empathy towards others.
 - Reacts to situations with compassion.
 - Polite and considerate towards others.
 - Neither rude nor condescending towards others even if views differ.

- Seek other's views/deas by listening with understanding and empathy.
 - Manages his impulsivity
 - Shows humility and is open to new ideas.
 - Willingness and openness to accept the feedback from others.
 - Seeks clarification and consensus from others.
 - Probe/inquire and is open to criticism from others

- Shows independence in learning / Independent learner and sees joy in learning.
 - Exhibit a sense of enthusiasm and curiosity about things around them.
 - Possess a sense of excitement on learning new ideas.
 - Exhibit a passion for thinking and learning.
 - Responding with joy in thinking and learning.
 - Enjoy learning independently.
 - Demonstrate competency in subject area/areas.
 - Enjoys seeking and solving problems.
 - Develop "I Can" attitude towards difficult tasks and situations.
 - Do not need extrinsic rewards to motivate their learning.
 - Motivate those around them to enjoy the thought process.

- A team-player/Collaborative worker
 - Communicates ideas with clarity and interacts well with others.
 - Willing to give up own ideas to work with someone else's
 - Flexible and examines an issue from different angles.
 - Allow others to voice their views and opinions
 - Do not impose their views and opinions on others.
 - Completes his tasks well and complement others.
 - Shares ideas and demonstrate confidence in carrying out assigned tasks.
 - Understand how one's action can affect the group's performance.
 - Effective group leadership.

Reflection 1

3 things I have learnt about the habit

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

2 ways that I can apply the habit

- 1.
- 2.

1 more thing that I want to find out about the habit

- 1.

Thinking interdependently

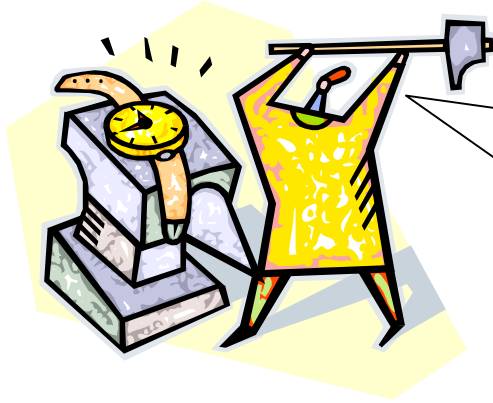
Activity 4: Comic drawing continuation

Theme: Robbery or An incident in the mall/ cinema



Thinking Interdependently

Pupil's Name >>> _____



How working together with my peers can benefit me:

An occasion when I thought interdependently and how it benefited me:



Thinking Behaviours Performance Checklist

Thinking Interdependently

To be printed for each pupil

Thinking Interdependently Observable Indicators		Often	Sometimes	Not yet
What it looks like:	Listens to instructions			
	Sets goals			
	Reacts to situations with compassion			
	Shows humility and is open to new ideas.			
	Exhibits a sense of enthusiasm and curiosity about things around them.			
What it sounds like:	Shares ideas and demonstrate confidence in carrying out assigned tasks.			
	Willing to give up own ideas to work with someone else's: "That is a good idea..."			
	Probe/inquire and is open to criticism from others: "do you think we can modify this...?"			
	Seeks clarification and consensus from others: "So, is everybody in agreement...?"			
Notes				

Adapted from Tahoma School District, Thinking Behaviours Performance Checklist by Nancy Skeritt