

Glenn's Holistic Thinking Pyramid [A Five (5) Tier Process of Integration]

Clement Glenn
Assistant Professor
Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling
Prairie View A&M University
Member of the Texas A&M University System

ABSTRACT

Dr. Glenn's Holistic Thinking Pyramid is a five (5) Tier Process of Integration. The author presents a post-modern thinking process by emphasizing holistic thinking components that are abstract, in connection with those elements that are in concrete—seen, in the present. The main focus of the pyramid is to explore a very significant question: *Why are there achievers and non-achievers?*

Purpose of the Article

The purpose of this article is to discuss the Holistic Thinking Pyramid – a five-tier process of integration as a thinking process. Holistic thinking serves to carefully and expertly examine cultural and societal misunderstandings through introspection and verification. According to I. V. Hilliard (1996), the dividing line in a free society is not race, creed or color, but the *thinking process*. Critical thinking, which is a component of the pyramid, for the most part, only considers, analyzes, evaluates and explains those things that happen in the concrete (processed through the five senses). Holistic thinking has as its focus to integrate those things that are abstract (unseen-past and/or future events) with those things that are in concrete (seen-in the present).

Glenn's Holistic Thinking Pyramid

LEVEL 5

Interpretive Thinking

[Integrating Abstract with Concrete]

Ability to connect the practices of yesterday with the events and attitudes of today, and the outcomes of tomorrow.

LEVEL 4

Creative Thinking

[Abstract – Future]

Ability to connect the events, attitudes and practices of today with the outcomes of tomorrow. Gives consideration to the “How” factors.

LEVEL 3

Reflective Thinking

[Abstract – Past]

Ability to connect the outcomes of today with the events, attitudes and practices of yesterday. Gives consideration to the “Why” factors.

LEVEL 2

Critical Thinking

[Concrete – Today]

Ability that allows a person to apply analytical reasoning and logic to events, attitudes and practices of today. Gives consideration to the “What” factors.

LEVEL 1

Basic Thinking

[Innate]

Natural ability to use instincts to reason (e.g. situations; places; people who have good, bad, or evil intentions)

Concluding Remarks

In conclusion, as educational practitioners, we need to truly step-up-to-the-plate and solve the many social problems and issues that continue to inundate our society. We must embrace this model that depicts an expanded version of thinking that will realistically bring us to a point where we are *“thinking outside the box.”*

Reference

Hilliard, I. V. (1996). *Mental toughness for success*. Houston, TX: Light Publications.

Formatted by Dr. Mary Alice Kritsonis, National Research and Manuscript Preparation Editor, NATIONAL FORUM JOURNALS, Houston, Texas. www.nationalforum.com