Framework for Critical Thinking and Evaluation

Characterize **Classify** **Compare** **Communicate**

Characterize
The use of our senses to gain insight into the object or phenomena. This will allow us to quantify the situation at hand.

Classify
Organization of objects or phenomena into a useful classification system. These can be know and/or unknown.

Compare
Comparisons are made from both within the system and outside of it. This allows for deeper comprehension of the classification and characterizations we have already done. This comparison should be evaluated keeping the following questions in mind:

Communicate
Decisions and viewpoints are based on perspectives that an individual holds. These CHOICES can be based on the simplest natural consequences or can be complex and rooted in whether the individual believes that it is their RIGHT, or that they have a RESPONSIBILITY to make that decision.

When new situations are presented to an individual, the initial analysis begins with *characterizing* followed by the *classification.* Each situation is based on the merits of the situation itself and then is classified into known or unknown quantities that are represented within the following systems

Natural Systems:	**Human Systems:**
Lithosphere	Politics
Hydrosphere	Economics
Atmosphere	Population
Biosphere	Ethics / World Views

What is the **SCALE** in which this is happening?

What is the **SCOPE** of the occurrence?

What **STAKES** are involved and who are the stakeholders?

What is the **SPEED** at which this will occur? Can this be sped up or slowed down? And what will cause the change in speed?

What is portrayed in a message is as important as the information that was used to determine the message being communicated. Knowing the perspective of the individual allows for better understanding of the facts in the situation. Keep in mind the perspectives that an individual may have:

Altruistic vs. Egoistic
Steward vs. Warden
Egalitarianist vs. Utilitarianist vs. Objectivist