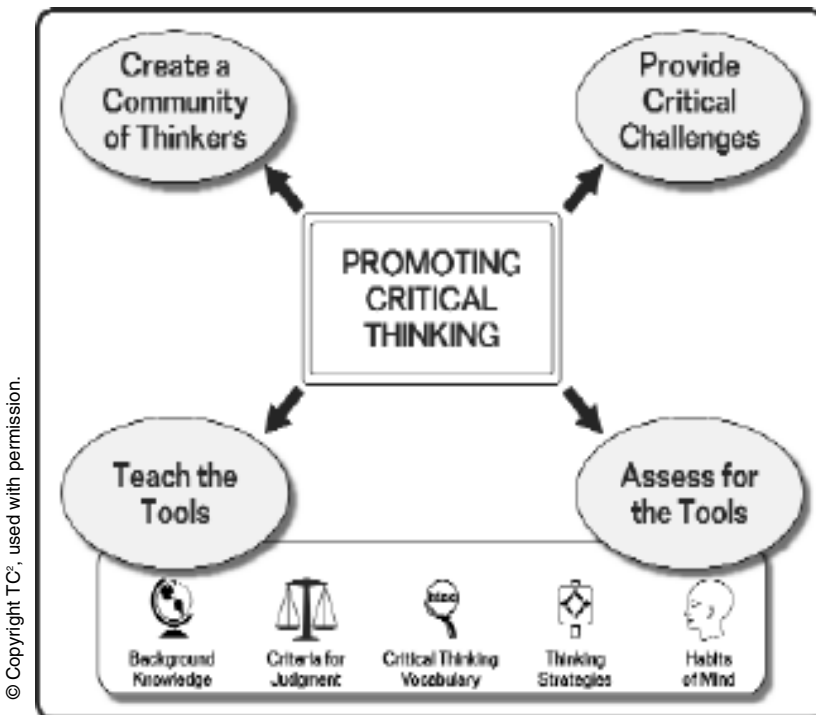


Critical Thinking

The *TC*² Conception

by **Rose Dotten**

based on material developed by The Critical Thinking Consortium



Critical thinking involves thinking through problematic situations about what to believe or how to act where the thinker makes reasoned judgments that embody the qualities of a competent thinker. Critical thinking has long been espoused by educators as a key goal for student learning. However, misunderstandings surrounding the concept of critical thinking and how it can be taught and learned have impeded widespread implementation of this important objective.

The conception outlined in this article has been developed over the past 10 years by The Critical Thinking Consortium (TC²), an association of 30 school districts, faculties of education and other educational groups in British Columbia and more recently, in Ontario and Alberta. Their approach is to infuse critical thinking into the curriculum and to systematically teach the intellectual “tools” that students require to make reasoned judgments with and about the subject matter they are studying. In the TC² approach, critical thinking ceases to be an add-on to the teaching of content, but rather an integral part of all teaching and learning.