8 Cultural Forces that Define our Classrooms

OPPORTUNITIES
Providing purposeful activities that require students to engage in thinking and the development of understanding as part of their ongoing experience of the classroom.

TIME
Allocating time for thinking by providing time for exploring topics more in depth as well as time to formulate thoughtful responses.

MODELING
Modelling of who we are as thinkers and learners so that the process of our thinking is discussed, shared, and made visible.

LANGUAGE
Using language of thinking that provides students with the vocabulary for describing and reflecting on thinking.

ENVIRONMENT
Making thinking visible by displaying the process of thinking and development of ideas. Arranging the space to facilitate thoughtful interactions.

INTERACTIONS
Showing a respect for and valuing of one another's contributions of ideas and thinking in a spirit of ongoing collaborative inquiry.

ROUTINES
Scaffolding students' thinking in the moment as well as providing tools and patterns of thinking that can be used independently.

EXPECTATIONS
Setting an agenda for understanding and conveying clear expectations. Focusing on the value for thinking and learning as outcomes as opposed to mere completion of "work."