

## A Synthesis of Two Models: Action Learning and Critical Thinking

- Evidence of a dearth of critical/ethical thinking: BP, Enron, Madoff, Goldman Sachs, Space Shuttles Challenger and Columbia.
- A synthesis of two models to address this issue.
- Marquardt Model: Six components – Problem or challenge, a group, power to act, commitment to learn, a process (reflection and questions), a coach.
- Definition of “Critical Thinking” – “Critical thinking is that mode of thinking – about any subject, content or problem – in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them.”
- Paul and Elder Model: Elements of Thought – Purpose of thinking, question at issue, information, interpretation & inference, concepts, assumptions, implications & consequences, point of view. Universal Intellectual Standards – Clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, logic, significance, fairness.
- Questioning/Reflection Approaches Compared:

Action Learning – questioning to bring fresh insights, questions that make people think, stimulate deeper understanding and opportunity to explore, explore what is not known as well as known.

Critical Thinking – awareness of egocentric thinking, improving quality and depth of thinking, Socratic Method (disciplined and deep), focus on elements of thought and intellectual standards, focus on fairness ensures ethical considerations.

- Intellectual Traits: Humility, perseverance, autonomy, integrity, confidence in reasoning, courage, empathy, fair-mindedness, open-mindedness.
- Questions for Discussion: 1. Would synthesizing the two models enhance set member critical/ethical thinking? 2. What would be the most effective way of accomplishing the synthesis?