



Rigorous Thinking!

Tools and Practices

to **Build Strong Hearts, Minds and Bodies**

Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr., Ph.D.



MIND Activators:

Did all dinosaurs die when the asteroid hit the earth?

Is the north star is the brightest star in the sky.

Do mice love cheese?

What color is your blood inside your body?

Would a penny dropped from the top of the empire state building kill you?

Did Vikings wear horned helmets?

Did George Washington have wooden teeth?

Did Albert Einstein fail math?

Did 300 Spartans fight at Thermopylae?

Was Napoleon very short?

Finally - Thanksgiving was on the last Thursday of the month but was moved back a week to **ALLOW FOR MORE SHOPPING!**

5-Year Joint Strategic Plan! **COMMUNICATIONS!**



BIGGEST NEWS!

Preston Building Needs Assessment Committee voted to bring the recommendation to the Board of Selectman to request the Board of Finance to fund a *formal study* to build a **new middle school grade 5-8** at the Amos Lake property on Rt164, AND renovate PPMS to become a consolidated Town Community Center to house the Town Hall, Senior Center, Town Library, Youth Services. Resident Trooper and Parks and Recreation.

There is much work ahead, but this remains a very important first step in the process.



Budget and School Culture and Climate

Budget

Student Review

Staffing Review

Limited Additions

Level Funding

Challenges Ahead

School Culture and Climate

Title IX - vacating

Paid Sick Leave Law

Social Security Fairness Act

Building Based Activities

TOGETHER



Grading and Report Cards

- **Break down broad standards**
- **Remove less important specifications**
- **Use revisable marks**
- **Focus on performance**
- **Make grades more meaningful**
- **Reduce failure rates**
- **Improve classroom climate**



Four Pillars of Preston

I. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

- Application of Critical Thinking:

II. Effective Communication

- Clear and Confident Communication:

III. Innovation and Creativity

- Risk-Taking and Resilience:
- Ownership of Learning:

IV. Global Citizenship

- Cultural Literacy and Integrity:
- Democratic Values:



Examples of Bias



Confirmation Bias: confirm your existing beliefs

Anchoring: first thing you judge influences your future

Belief Bias: Support your existing beliefs

Barnum Effect: see personal in vague statements

Self-Serving Bias: Belief your failures are based on external factors

Dunning-Kruger Effect: The less you know the more confident you are likely to be.

Examples of Logical Fallacies



Ambiguity: double or misleading meanings

Personal Incredulity: If difficult to understand so it must not be true

Special Pleading: moving the goalpost

Ad Hominem: Attack character or traits

Strawman: Misrepresentation

Slippery Slope: If we allow A, then Z will happen

False Cause: presumption that one is the cause of the other



Drop the Worry, Embrace the Wonder!

<https://youtu.be/meSEsyVSvEQ>



AI Robot Caregivers Are Filling a Shortfall

AI-Based Cybersecurity

AI Diagnostics for X-Rays

AI in Smartphone Apps

AI Beer Brewers

Happy New Year!
Thank You!

