WL STEPS FOR BETTER THINKING
A Developmental Problem Solving Process

FOUNDATION
Knowledge and Skills

• Repeat or paraphrase information from textbooks, notes, etc.

• Reason to single "correct" solution, perform computations, etc.

STEP 1
Identify the Problem, Relevant Information, and Uncertainties
(low cognitive complexity)

• Identify problem and acknowledge reasons for enduring uncertainty and absence of single "correct" solution

• Identify relevant information and uncertainties embedded in the information

STEP 2
Explore Interpretations and Connections
(moderate cognitive complexity)

• Interpret information:
(1) Recognize and control for own biases
(2) Articulate assumptions and reasoning associated with alternative points of view
(3) Qualitatively interpret evidence from a variety of points of view

• Organize information in meaningful ways that encompass problem complexities

STEP 3
Prioritize Alternatives and Implement Conclusions
(high cognitive complexity)

• After thorough analysis, develop and use reasonable guidelines for prioritizing factors to consider and choosing among solution options

• Efficiently implement conclusions, involving others as needed

STEP 4
Envision and Direct Strategic Innovation
(highest cognitive complexity)

• Acknowledge, explain, and monitor limitations of endorsed solution

• Integrate skills into on-going process for generating and using information to guide strategic innovation

STEP 4:
Envisioning

STEP 3:
Prioritizing

STEP 2:
Exploring

STEP 1:
Identifying

FOUNDATION:
Knowing