**Tips for creating a skillful, critical, and/or creative thinking lesson.**

**Remember:**

1. Arthur Costa’s revision of Henry Ford’s Quote:

*“Critical, Creative, Careful, Skillful thinking is the* ***hardest work*** *there is and that is why* ***few people engage*** *in it!”*

*2. If a lessoncan take students’ thinking in different directions, then more than likely the lesson is conducted at a high-order thinking skill.*

**I. CREATING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE THINKING LESSON**

**Question:**

How do we increase the probability of having our student(s) participate in specific thinking lesson?

(Remember that the lesson is going to be hard work and might even be scary – taking a risk)

**Answer:**

We can hypothesize that we will **increase** the probability of a student taking a risk, by doing the following:

a) Have the student work with a partner/group (provides a sense of belonging - Maslow’s Hierarchy of

Needs)

b) Create a class climate that is flexible, tolerant and kind (builds trust, which then makes the student

feel valued and appreciated)

**II. “DIRECT” INSTRUCTION OF THINKING SKILL**

(ex. See ASCD thinking skills)

A.Include steps to help guide the students through the lesson.

**III. REFLECTION:**

A. Provide opportunities for self and/or group reflection.

B. The placement of reflection in the lesson is flexible.

1) Reflection can be encouraged **before** the lesson.

2) Reflection can be encouraged **during** the lesson.

3) Reflection can be **after** the lesson.

C. Reflection “grounds us” – it becomes our “reality check.”

“Brings us back to Earth.”

D. What you “hear” –“Is this working?”

“Why isn’t this working?”

**Illustration:** (Draw your thinking here):