

First Principles Thinking

How to practice and think from first principles

"In every systematic inquiry (methods) where there are first principles, the result from acquiring knowledge of these is for us to think we know what we do not know, and to acquire the primary causes, the primary first principles, all the way to the elements."
Aristotle



What is First Principles Reasoning?

A first principle is a proposition or an assumption on which methods and laws are based on first principles. Axioms and postulates are first principles in mathematics.

Socratic Questioning

1. Clarify your thinking and explaining the origins of why you think that? What exactly do I think?
2. Challenge assumptions. Why do I think this is true? What if I thought the opposite?
3. Why do I think this is true? What are the sources? What might others think? How do I know I am right?
4. Examine consequences and implications. What if I am wrong? What are the consequences if I am right?
5. Question the original questions. What else can I draw from the reasoning process?

Elon Musk's 3 Questions

- 1: Identify and define your current assumptions
- 2: Breakdown the problem into its fundamental parts
- 3: Create new solutions from scratch

5 Whys

Identify the natural first principles thinkers. They ask why until they reach the knowledge of the first principle. 5 why questions help you to peels a layers off a problem or an idea. True knowledge leading a

First Principles Innovations

- Aerospace, rocketry and physical laws
- Cheap reusable rockets
- Electric vehicles



First Principles Frameworks

- First principles thinking: Is it true? Anticipous thinking: it was done before, therefore, it is true.

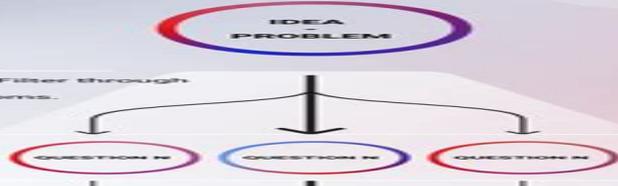


First Principles Analysis Flow

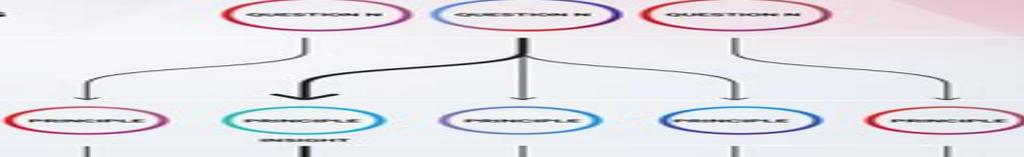
FIRST PRINCIPLES PRISM

- STEP 1: Eliminate assumptions. Filter through Questioning.
- STEP 2: Find First Principles Axioms.
- STEP 3: Build a new solution.

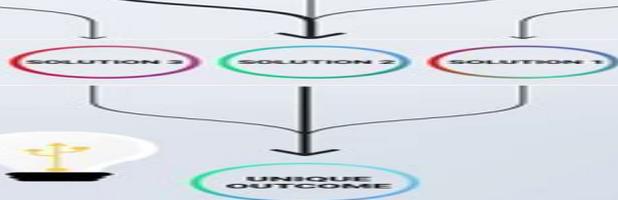
QUESTIONING



FIRST PRINCIPLES AXIOM



BUILDING



First Principles How to Practice

Practice and application

1. Make it easy to apply.
2. Create a template of one of the first principles framework.
3. Research a problem with a framework.
4. Question assumptions.
5. Reason from the insights you found.
6. Shift your thinking patterns.
7. Make it a habit.



First Principles Of Philosophy

Michael Rajnik



First Principles Of Philosophy:

First Principles of a New System of Philosophy Herbert Spencer, 1865 **First Principles** Herbert Spencer, 1887

The Course of Remembrance and Other Essays on Hölderlin Dieter Henrich, Eckart Förster, 1997 In a series of studies over the last 30 years Henrich has shown that Hölderlin played a decisive role in the development of philosophy from Kant to Hegel This book includes six of Henrich's most important essays on Hölderlin **Aristotle's First Principles** Terence Irwin, 1990 Aristotle's reliance on dialectic as a method of philosophy appears to conflict with his metaphysical realist view of his conclusions This book explores Aristotle's philosophical method and the merits of his conclusions and shows how he defends dialectic against the objection that it cannot justify a metaphysical realist's claims The author does not presuppose extensive previous acquaintance with Aristotle Greek texts are translated and Greek words transliterated **An Essay on Personality as a Philosophical Principle** Wilfrid John Richmond, 1900 **German Idealism and the Problem of Knowledge:** Nectarios G. Limnatis, 2008-10-14 The problem of knowledge in German Idealism has drawn increasing attention This is the first attempt at a systematic critique that covers all four major figures Kant Fichte Schelling and Hegel The book offers a fresh and challenging analysis *First Principles* Herbert Spencer, 2019-06-17 We too often forget that not only is there a soul of goodness in things evil but very generally also a soul of truth in things erroneous While many admit the abstract probability that a falsity has usually a nucleus of reality few bear this abstract probability in mind when passing judgment on the opinions of others A belief that is finally proved to be grossly at variance with fact is cast aside with indignation or contempt and in the heat of antagonism scarcely any one inquires what there was in this belief which commended it to men's minds Yet there must have been something And there is reason to suspect that this something was its correspondence with certain of their experiences an extremely limited or vague correspondence perhaps but still a correspondence Even the absurdest report may in nearly every instance be traced to an actual occurrence and had there been no such actual occurrence this preposterous misrepresentation of it would never have existed Though the distorted or magnified image transmitted to us through the refracting medium of rumour is utterly unlike the reality yet in the absence of the reality there would have been no distorted or magnified image And thus it is with human beliefs in general Entirely wrong as they may appear the implication is that they germinated out of actual experiences originally contained and perhaps still contain some small amount of verity **Brownson's quarterly review**, 1873 **The Works of Thomas Reid** Thomas Reid, Dugald Stewart, 1872 **Negotiating Toward Truth** George David Miller, 2021-09-20 For far too many people for far too many years schooling has been a debilitating demoralizing and ultimately dehumanizing experience Make shift half hearted and watered down reform measures have proved ineffective Reform throws out the bath water but keeps the baby Radicalism recognizes not a baby but a beast lurks in the bath water and throws both out This dramatic redefinition of schooling examines four models of dynamism as provided by Nietzsche Whitehead Dewey and Freire Nietzsche's affirmation

of dynamism is marred by his elitism Whitehead understands that inert cripple schooling Without dialogue ideas remain inert Dewey misunderstands thinking and does not grasp its inherent double movement toward order and disorder Freire s pedagogy is transcended with emphasis on negotiation between prime values The final chapter expounds a radical pedagogy of dynamism Miller argues that teaching and learning are not separate acts but form a continuum Within the teaching learning continuum all participants are spontaneous and receptive and seek to overcome fear of process ambiguity and doubt The key to radical schooling is a pro active stance toward creativity that allows for a dynamic integration of difference in dialogue Negotiating Toward Truth is a call to arms for all educators The book asks us to look closely what is in the bath water and to have the courage to throw the beast out with the bath water

The Best Books William Swan
Sonnenschein,1895 **Logic: The judgement, concept and inference** Christoph Sigwart,1895 **God's Existence and Other Philosophical Essays** Paul Gerard Horrigan,2007 **The Principles of Psycholoby** William James ,1918 *The Encyclopaedia Britannica* Hugh Chrisholm,1911 **The Study of Chemical Composition** Ida Freund,1904 *The Principles of Psychology* William James,1918 *the library journal* leypoldt ,1880 **Host Bibliographic Record for Boundwith Item Barcode 30112106187302 and Others** ,1894 *The Brown Ambassador* Mrs. Hugh Fraser,1895

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