

## Quick Consolidation: Strengthen Thinking Skills

Any time a teacher complains that his or her students are not good at thinking, remember that the greatest probability is that no one has ever taught them to think. When teaching students to reason and think more effectively, different strategies fit different problems and situations. In this chapter, you saw a list of cognitive tools to use for any type of reasoning activity, although not all are mandatory for every situation. With this firmly in mind, answer the following reflection questions on what you've learned from this chapter and how you can integrate this new knowledge into your instructional practices.

1. What do you know or understand about the importance of the role of thinking skills in student learning that you didn't know when you started this chapter?
2. While teaching a unit, what new questions might you now ask students to gauge their learning? How will you change your process to give students time to develop and answer those questions?
3. What tools can you give to students to help them isolate and define a problem and the steps they can take to resolve it?
4. In what ways can you integrate the concept of asking powerful questions and forming effective arguments into your specific curriculum?
5. What new routines will you use to help your students develop top-flight thinking skills?