



## The TLT Group

Teaching, Learning, and Technology  
A Non-Profit Corporation

### FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

*Laying the Foundation for Improving Teaching and Learning with Technology;  
Setting Priorities and Selecting “Dangerous Discussions” Issues*

**Information technology can be the excuse and the means to make almost any kinds of change in education and elsewhere.** As you think about the kinds of change that *might* happen, try to answer each of these questions for your students, your colleagues, your institution, and yourself:

**1. What do you most want to gain? [Regain?]**

What, who do you care about? What do you hope for?

[If it is easier, ask yourself “What do I most want to regain?]

**2. What do you most cherish and want not to lose?**

**3. What do you most want to avoid?**

Which aspects of the more likely futures do you fear?

**4. What are you willing (eager?) to give up or cut back?**

What are you willing to *sacrifice* in order to gain or keep something you identified in questions 1 or 2 above? To avoid something you identified in 3?

## 5. What “Dangerous Discussion” issues do you most want to address civilly and constructively within your college/university?

These issues should have the following characteristics:

- There is a realistic possibility that holding some respectful, inclusive, constructive discussions might influence decisions about this issue that will have a significant impact on many people.
- There are several different categories of stakeholders who believe this issue is important to them, but some of them avoid talking with others about this issue - except those likely to agree with them.
- There are ways in which some applications of information technology and communications media could help this process, and some applications may already be getting in the way.
- This issue is important to **you**, and fits well with your answers to 1-4 above!

## 6. What are some realistic options? Solutions?

Describe some options that could help in addressing these issues or solving related problems.

## 7. Whom can you thank?

Who has been providing help to you or to some of your colleagues – above and beyond what would be expected solely based on that person’s professional responsibilities?

[Who has been a “*compassionate pioneer*” at least once?

Whom would you like to thank publicly for being helpful or simply for trying hard to surpass his/her own previous achievements?

Whom would you like to thank for their contributions as teachers, helpers, or learners?]

See:

**<http://www.tltgroup.org/CommunityConnectedness.htm>**

For more explanation of the essential characteristics of and of the requirements for a “Dangerous Discussion” issue, see:

<http://www.tltgroup.org/ProFacDev/DangerousDiscussions/Requirements.htm>

For examples of relevant issues, topics, see:

<http://www.tltgroup.org/ProFacDev/DangerousDiscussions/TopicsTLT.htm>

For more background and related resources about “Fundamental Questions,” see:

<http://www.tltgroup.org/profacdev/dangerousdiscussions/FundamentalQuestionsComposite.htm>