Six Key Indicators of Thoughtfulness

1. Classroom discourse focuses on sustained examination of a few topics rather than superficial coverage of many.

2. The discourse is characterized by substantive coherence and continuity.

3. Students are given sufficient time to think before being required to answer questions.

4. The teacher presses students to clarify or justify their assertions, rather than accepting and reinforcing them indiscriminately.

5. The teacher models the characteristic of a thoughtful person by showing interest in students' ideas and suggestions for solving problems, modeling problem-solving processes rather than just giving answers, and acknowledging the difficulties involved in gaining clear understandings of problematic topics.

6. Students generate original and unconventional ideas in the course of interaction.