

WHAT IS 'PHILOSOPHY?'

1. the "love of wisdom" (Pythagoras)
2. 'examined living' (Socrates)
3. 'intelligent subjectivity' (M. Novak)
 - intelligent self-questions
 - intelligent responses / 'answers' to intelligent self-questions
 - your most intelligent response / conclusion / 'answer'
4. "... the attempt to think rationally and critically about life's most important issues." (E. Miller)
 - "to think"
 - "rational" and "critical" thinking = reasons / evidence
 - the "attempt" = effort / work – hard work
 - about "most important" life-issues
5. "... sustained reflection on the ultimate questions of life – bring deeper understanding and personal transformation." (Stumpf & Abel)
 - "sustained" = continued effort in "reflection"
 - on "ultimate" = enduring / 'perennial' life-questions
 - result: deeper understanding
 - result: personal transformation

SOME BENEFITS OF PHILOSOPHY EDUCATION

1. develop critical thinking skills
 - a. "outside of the box" thinking
(ex. nine-dot figure)
 - b. "recognized alternative ways of thinking" thinking
(ex. duck-rabbit figure)
2. "successful" thinking – academics & career
3. 'meaning of life' thinking – discovery / creation
4. to becoming an 'authentic' person
5. to thinking well & for yourself (which can be "FUN!")