**Intellectual Standards Guide**

There are two major ways that Intellectual Standards play into investigating claims. **First, at the point of research. Where *you* are evaluating *someone else's* claims in a source. Second, at the point where you share your findings. You then must evaluate *your own* claims.**

**CLARITY:** If a statement is unclear, we cannot determine whether it is accurate or relevant because you don't *really* know what is being said.

* Could you elaborate further on that point? Could you express that point in another way? Could you give me an example?

**ACCURACY:** A statement or claim may contain incorrect or otherwise false information.

* How could we check if that is true? What has the thinker or writer provided as evidence or references?

**PRECISION:** A statement can be both clear and accurate, but not precise, as in "Jack is overweight" rather than "Jack weighs 300 pounds."

* Could you give more details? Could you be more specific?

**RELEVANCE:** A statement is not relevant to the question at issue or to your need if it doesn't directly answer it or provide you information that answers it.

* What does the statement have to do with the issue? How did it answer the question?

**DEPTH:** A statement that fails to deal with the complexities of an issue does not provide enough depth.

* How are you taking into account the problems in the question? Is that dealing with the most significant factors?

**BREADTH:** A line of reasoning may lack breadth if it only recognizes the insights of one side of the question.

* Do we need to consider another point of view? What is another way to look at this question?

**LOGIC:** When we think, we bring a variety of thoughts together into some order. When the combination of thoughts are mutually supporting and make sense in combination, the thinking is "logical."

* Does this really make sense? How do those thoughts or statements follow from what you said? Before you implied this, and now you are saying that; how can both be true?

**FAIRNESS:** We naturally see ourselves as fair even when we are unfair. We have to make the effort to exhibit or detect fairness in our thinking.

* Do I have a vested interest in this issue? How am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?