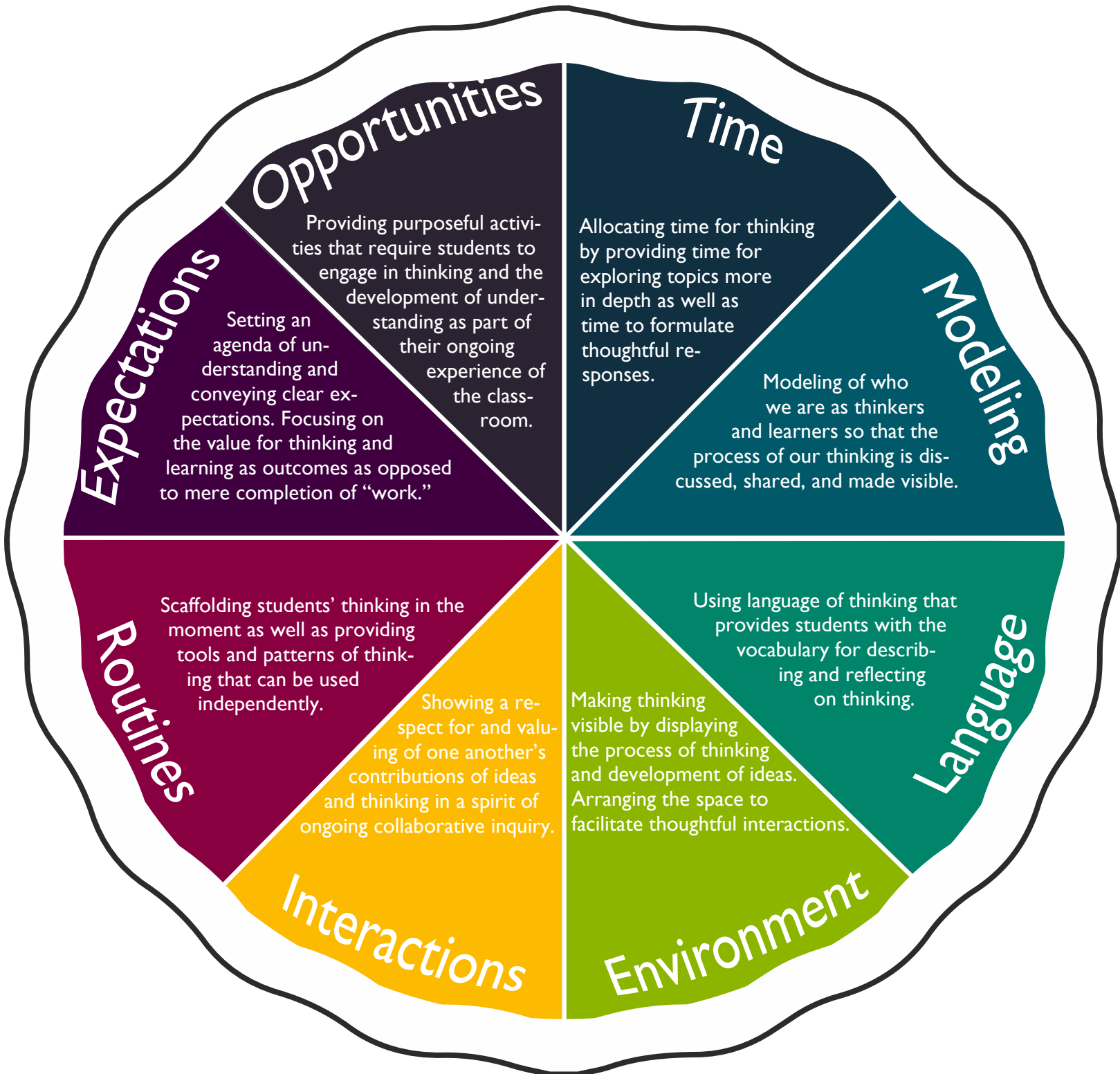


8 Cultural Forces that define our classrooms



8

Cultural Forces that define our Classrooms

Expectations

Setting an agenda of understanding and conveying clear expectations. Focusing on the value for thinking and learning as outcomes as opposed to mere completion of “work.”

Opportunities

Providing purposeful activities that require students to engage in thinking and the development of understanding as part of their ongoing experience of the classroom.

Time

Allocating time for thinking by providing time for exploring topics more in depth as well as time to formulate thoughtful responses.

Modeling

Modeling of who we are as thinkers and learners so that the process of our thinking is discussed, shared, and made visible.

Language

Using a language of thinking that provides students with the vocabulary for describing and reflecting on thinking.

Environment

Making thinking visible by displaying the process of thinking and development of ideas. Arranging the space to facilitate thoughtful interactions.

Interactions

Showing a respect for and valuing of one another’s contributions of ideas and thinking in a spirit of ongoing collaborative inquiry.

Routines

Scaffolding students’ thinking in the moment as well as providing tools and patterns of thinking that can be used independently.