**ENCOURAGING REFLECTIVE THINKING**

**What is Reflective Thinking?**

Reflective thinking is part of the critical thinking process. We participate in reflective thinking when we process, analyze, and make judgments about things that have happened.

**How Can I Stimulate Reflective Thinking in My Student?**

* Ask the student questions that require reasoning and use of evidence and knowledge.
* Provide time and space for the student to reflect.
* Provide a supportive environment for the process.
* Encourage students to journal, as well as verbalize their reflections.

**What Questions Should I Ask to Stimulate Reflection?**

* Use the Four R’s of Reflection1:
  + Reporting
    - What happened?
  + Relating
    - What have you learned about this sort of situation or condition?
    - Have you seen something similar to this before?
  + Reasoning
    - Why did it happen?
    - What else might have contributed to this situation?
    - What impact did you have on the situation?
    - What alternatives might you consider?
    - What are you thinking now?
  + Reconstructing
    - How could you do things differently?
    - How could you change the impact you had on the situation?
    - How do you think an alternative activity might impact the outcome?
    - What will you do if your new plan isn’t working? What options do you have?