The Facilitation of Learning

D. Merrill Ewert
President Emeritus
Fresno Pacific University

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

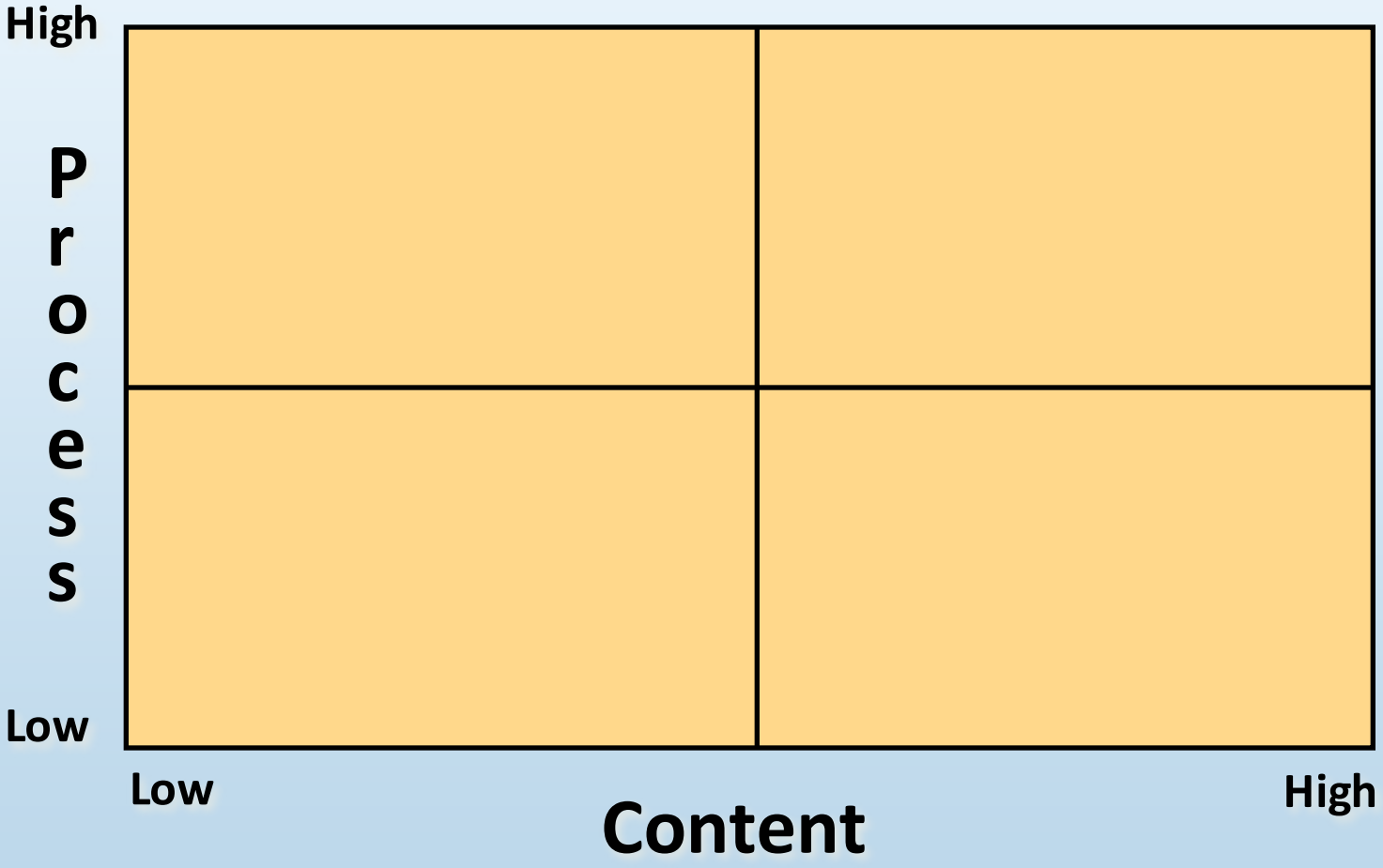
What do you believe about *teaching* and *learning*?

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Process vs. Content: the dilemma

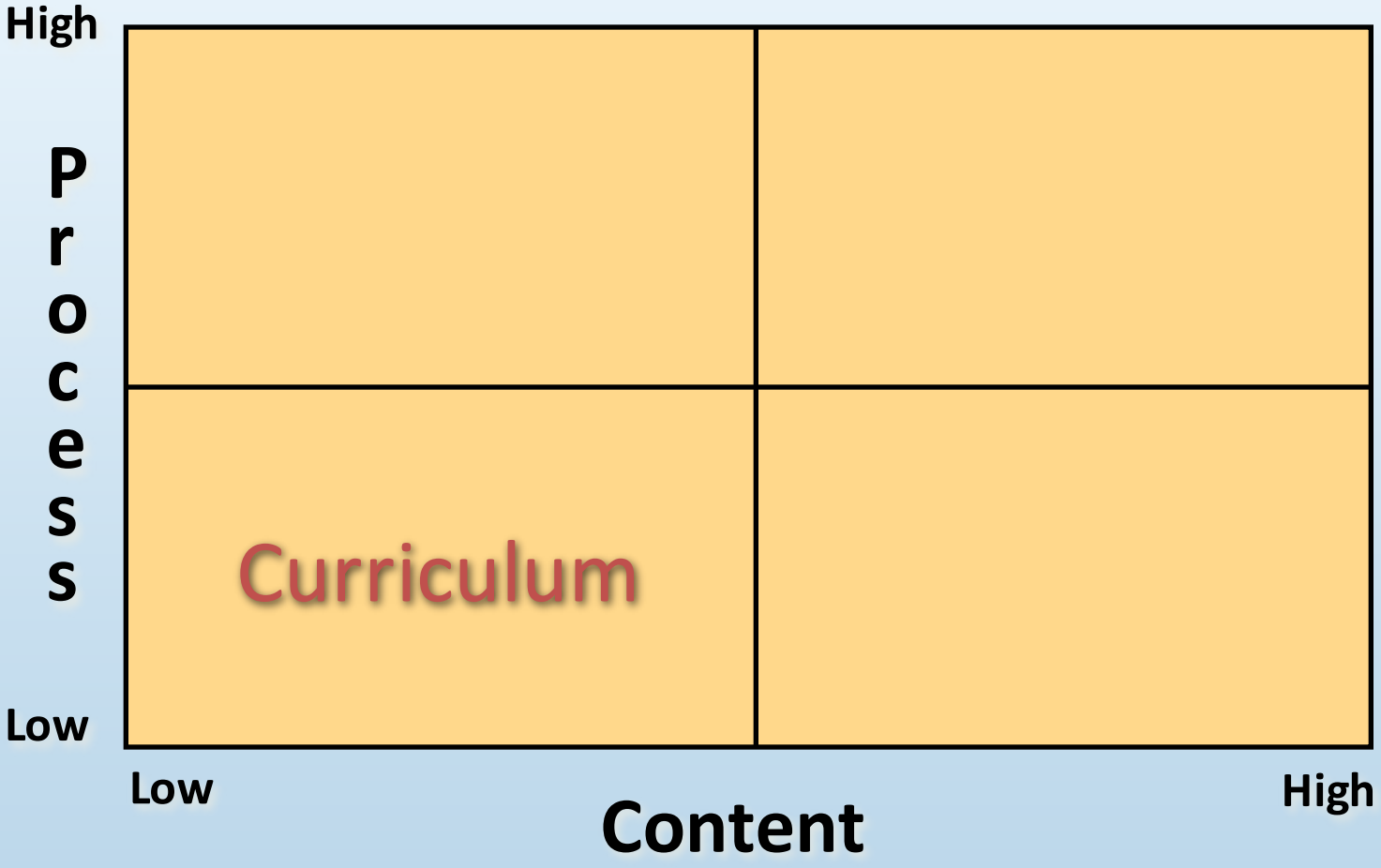
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Process vs. Content



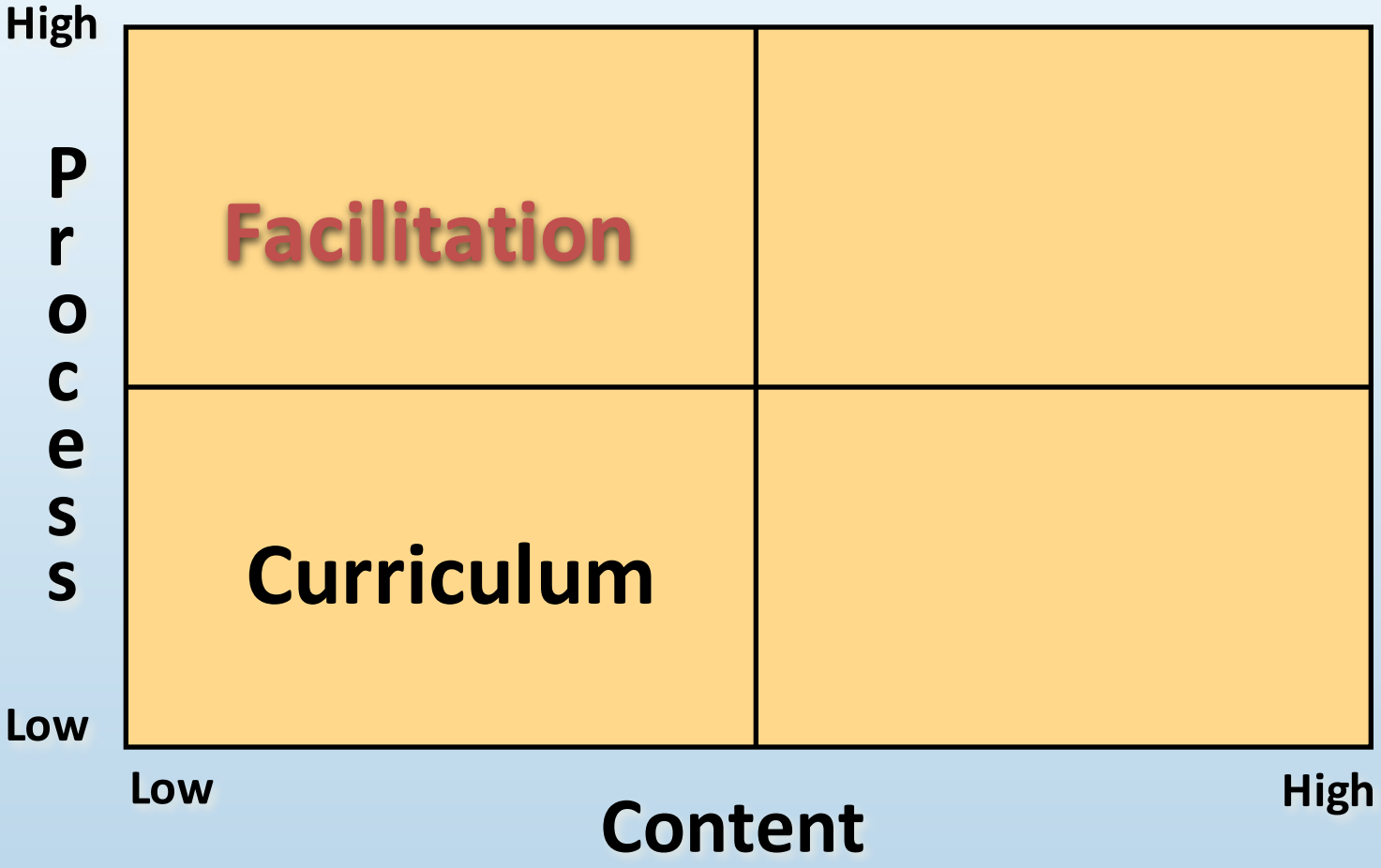
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Lo Content/Lo Process



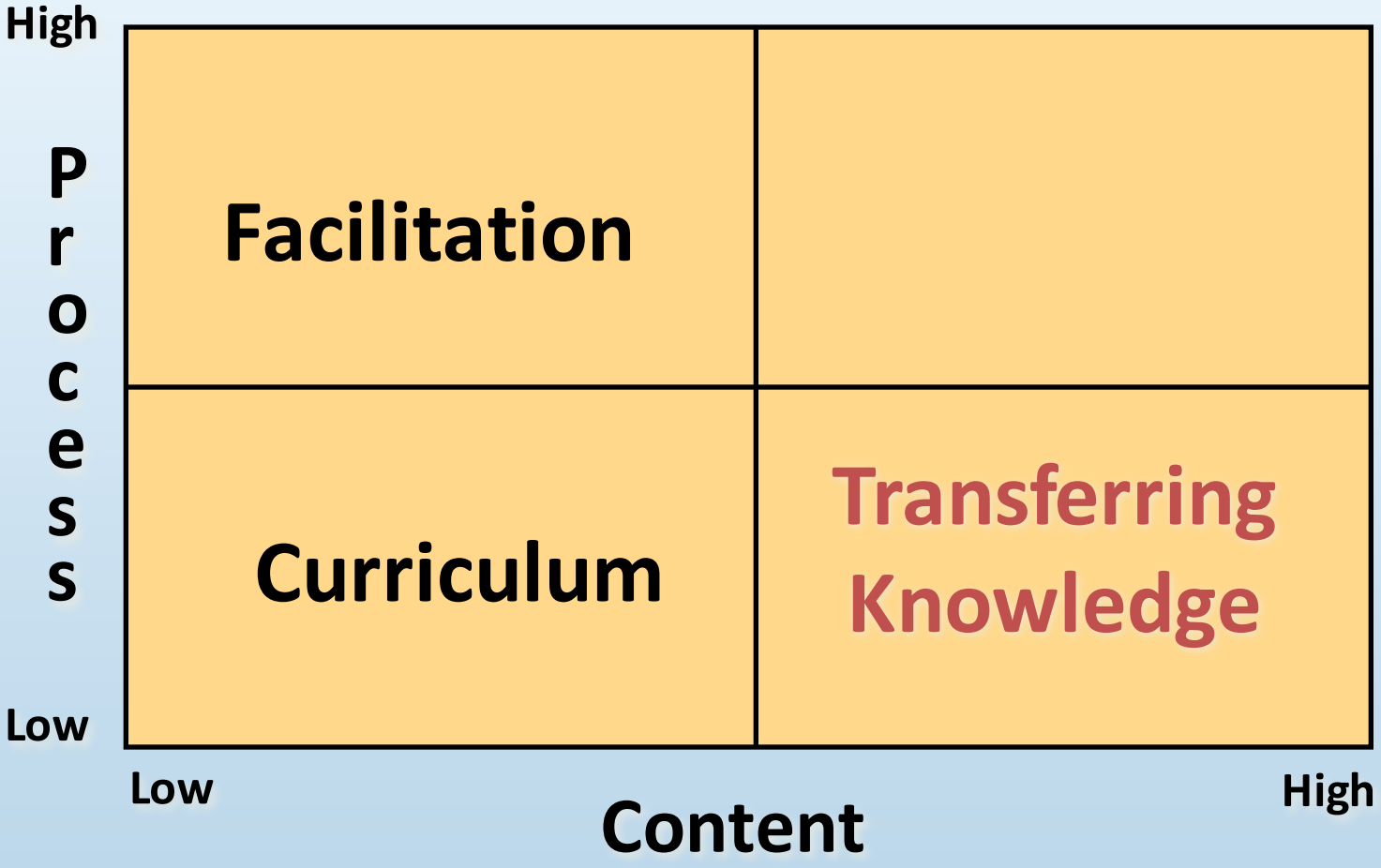
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Lo Process/Hi Content



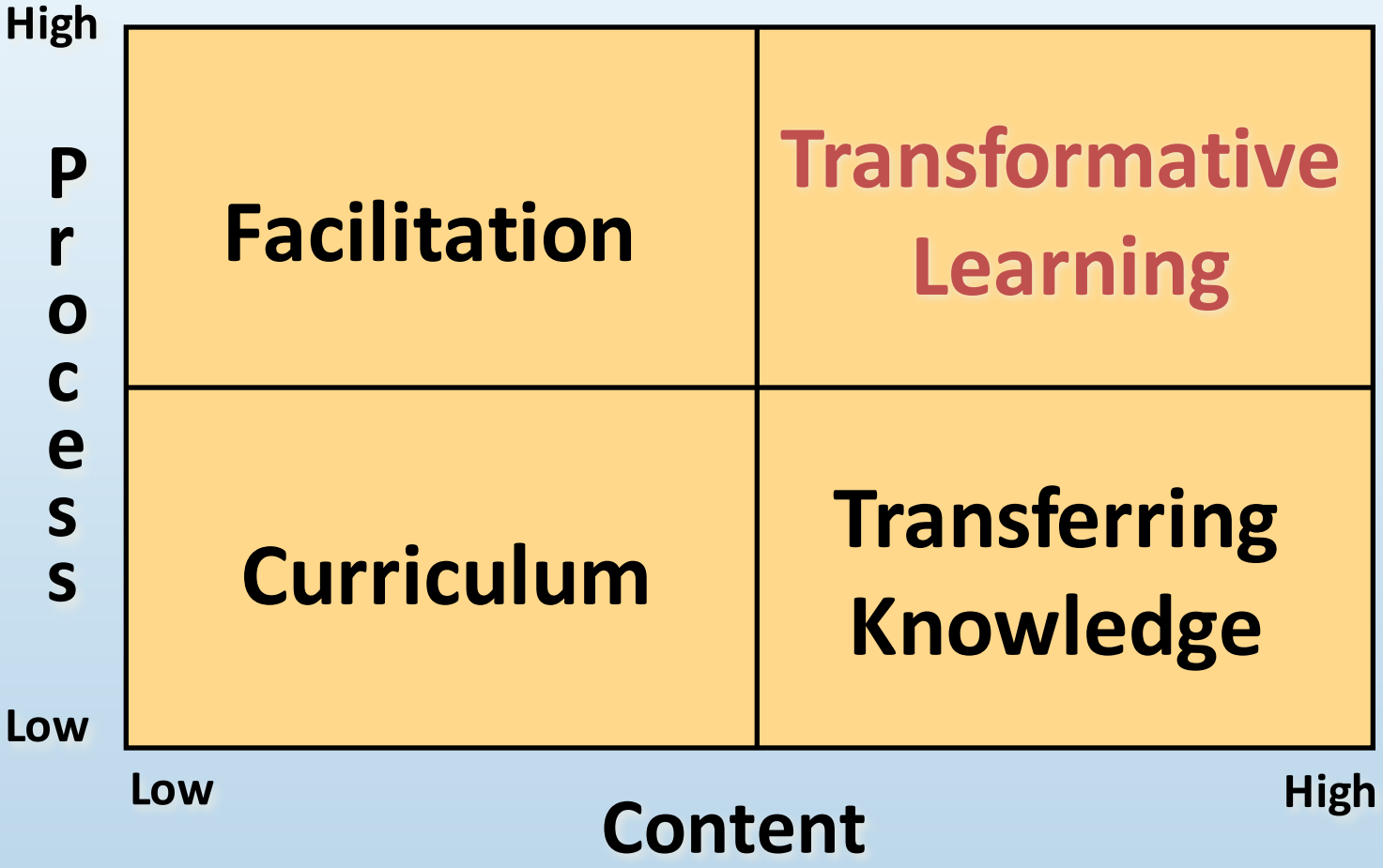
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Hi Content/Lo Process



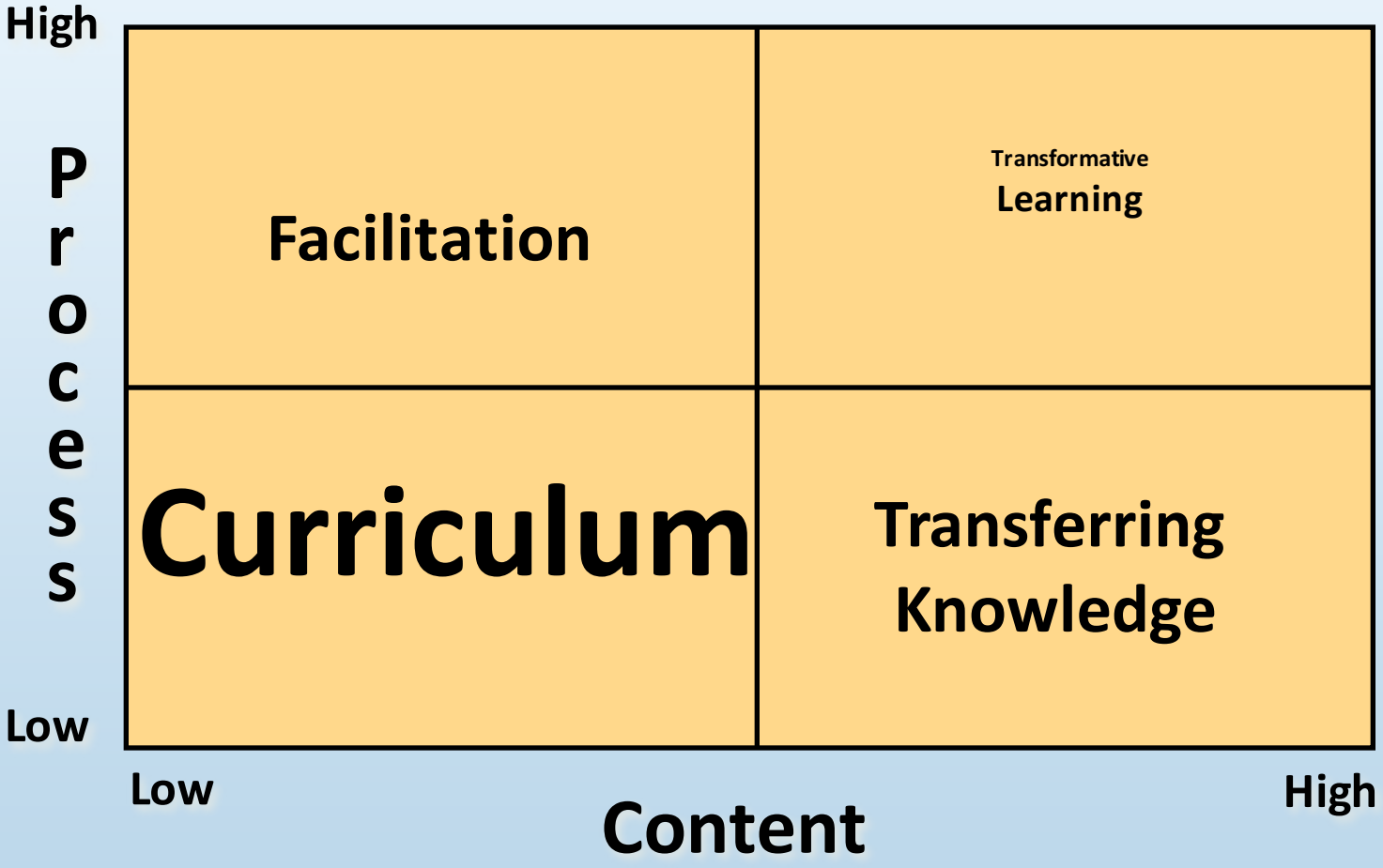
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Hi Process/Hi Content



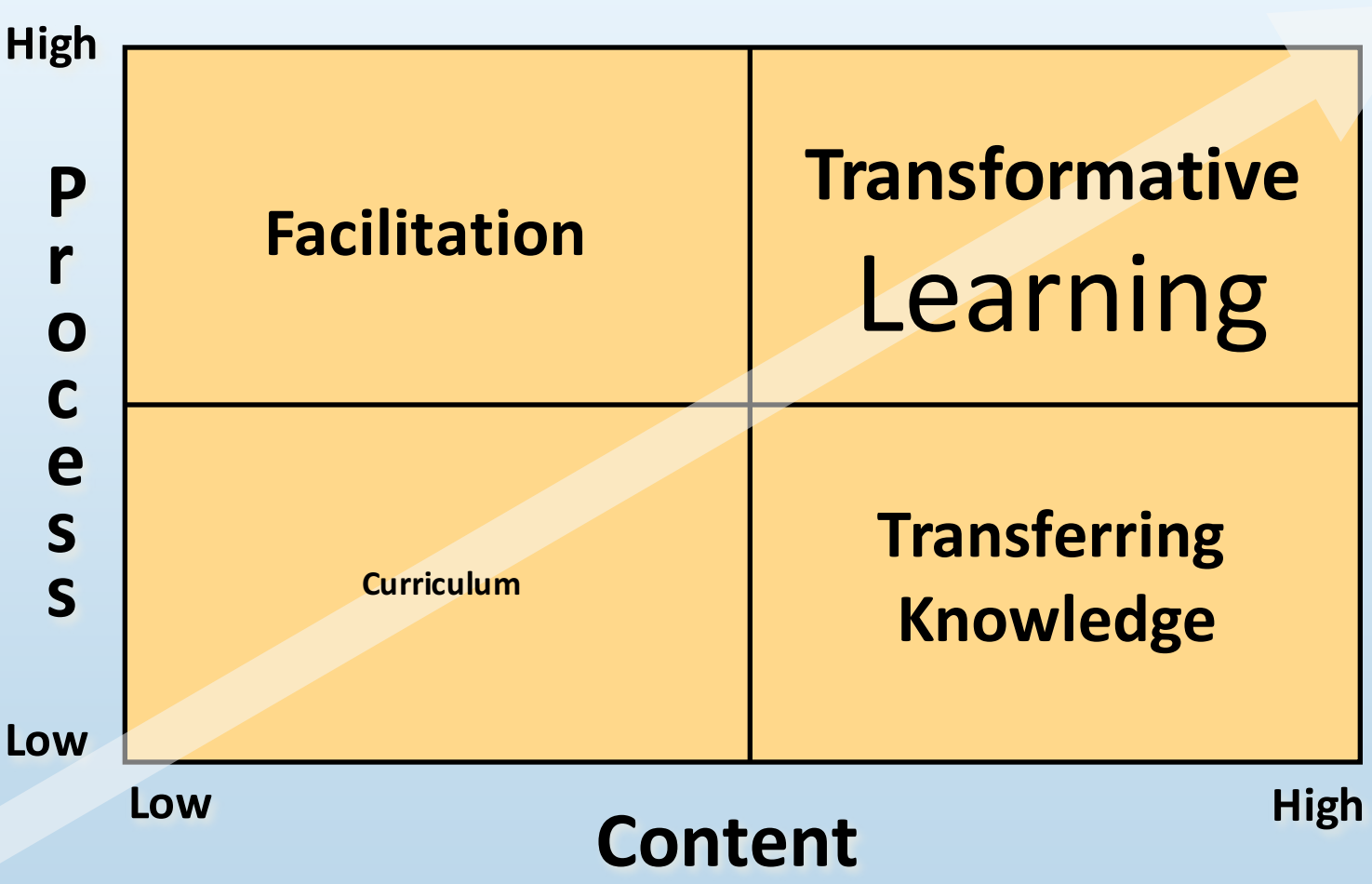
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Education Today



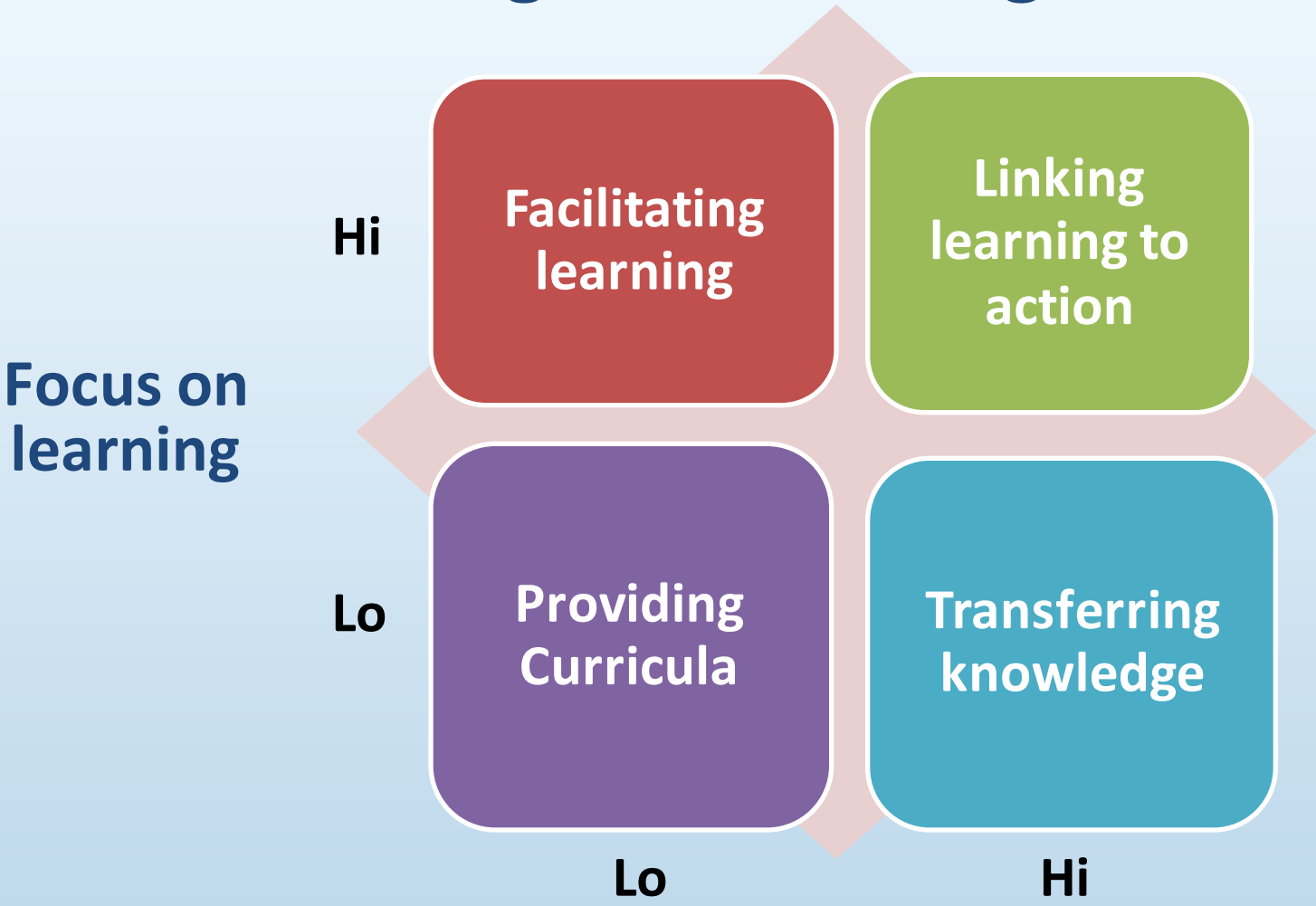
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

What it Must Become



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Learning vs. Knowledge Transfer



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

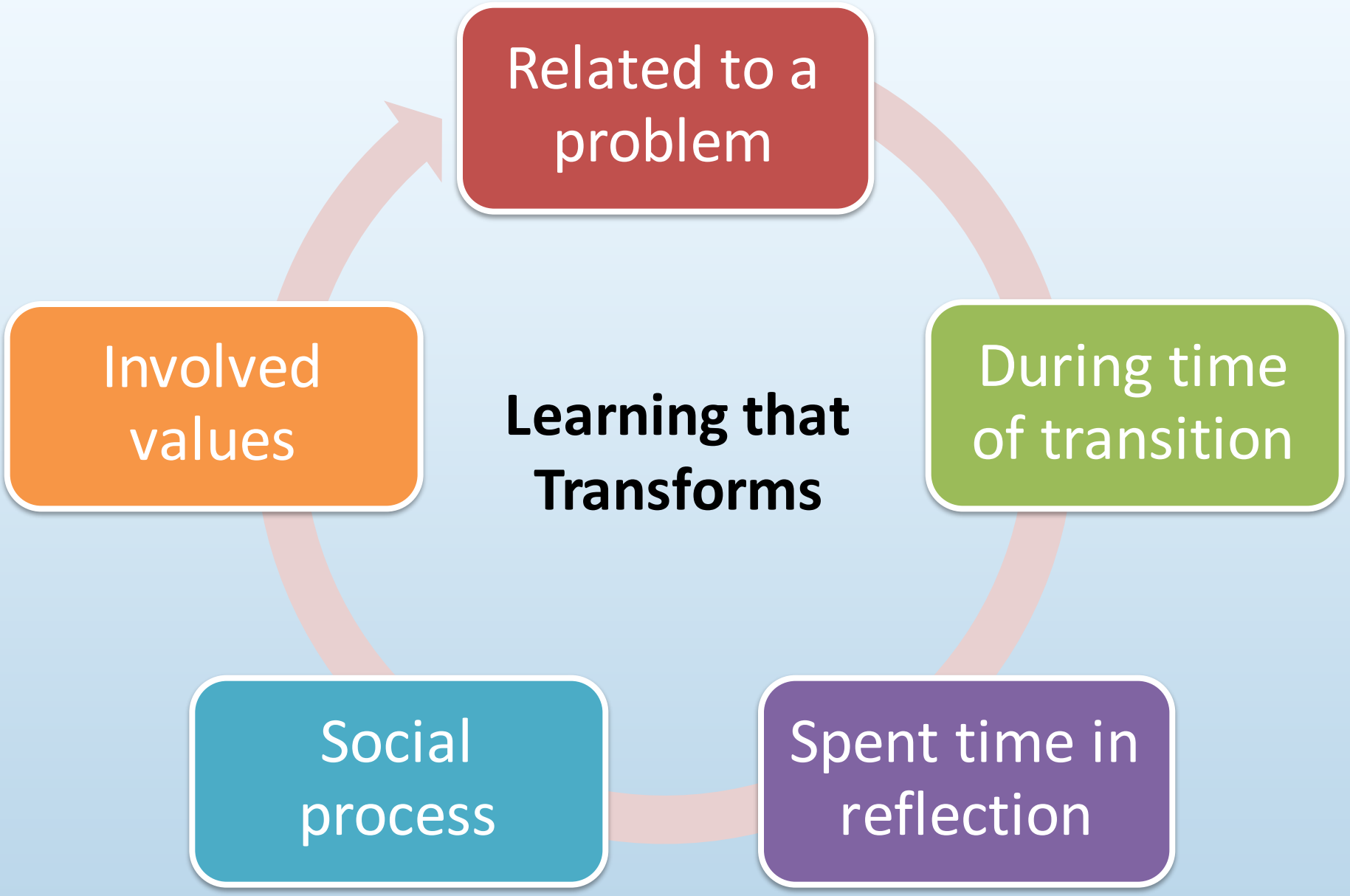
Barriers to learning

- Preoccupation with “content”
- Learned helplessness
- Inadequate “process” skills
- Lack of transformative learning theory

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

What is the most important thing you have learned during the past five years—and how did you learn it?

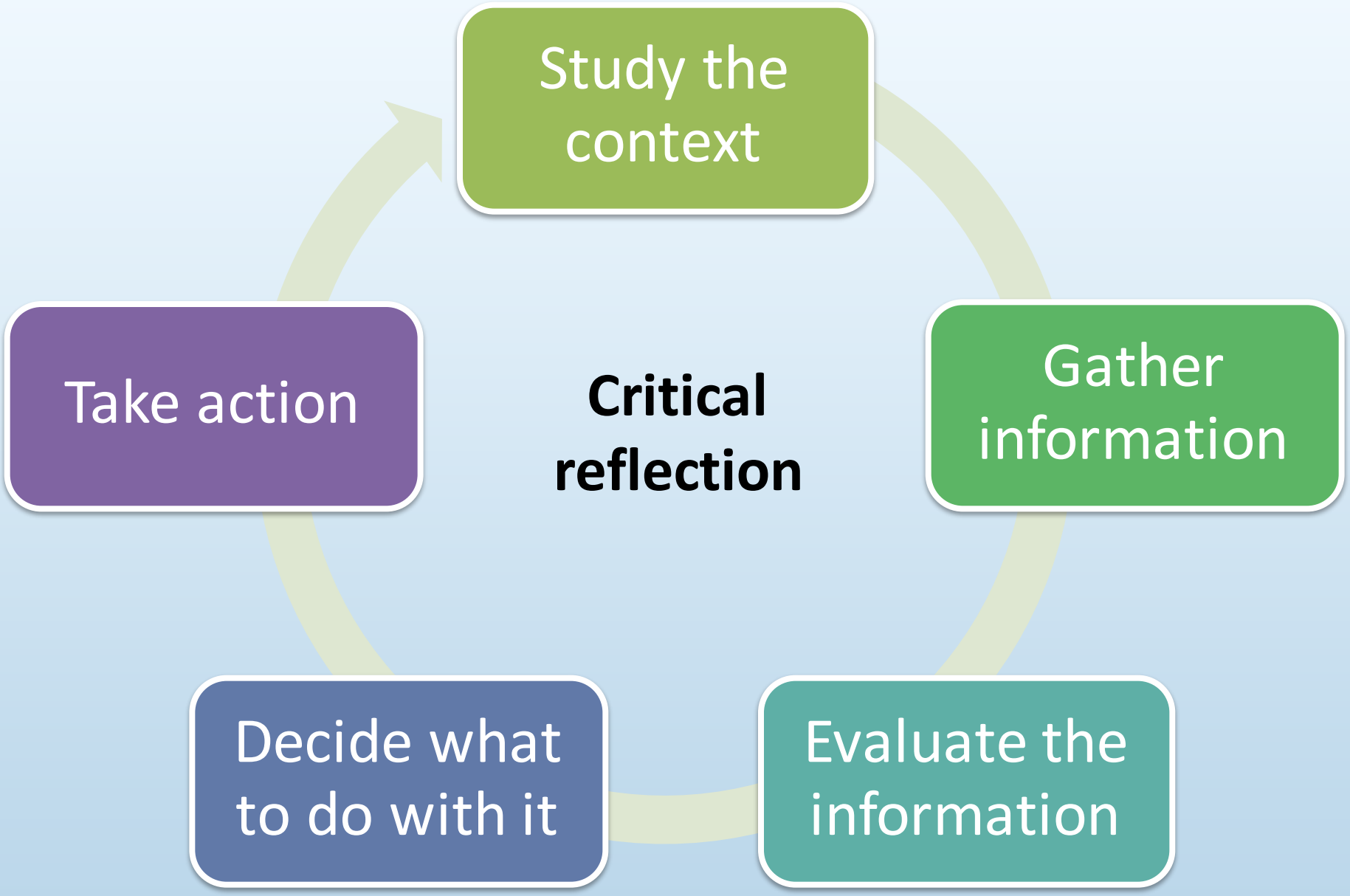
©2013 - Merrill Ewert



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

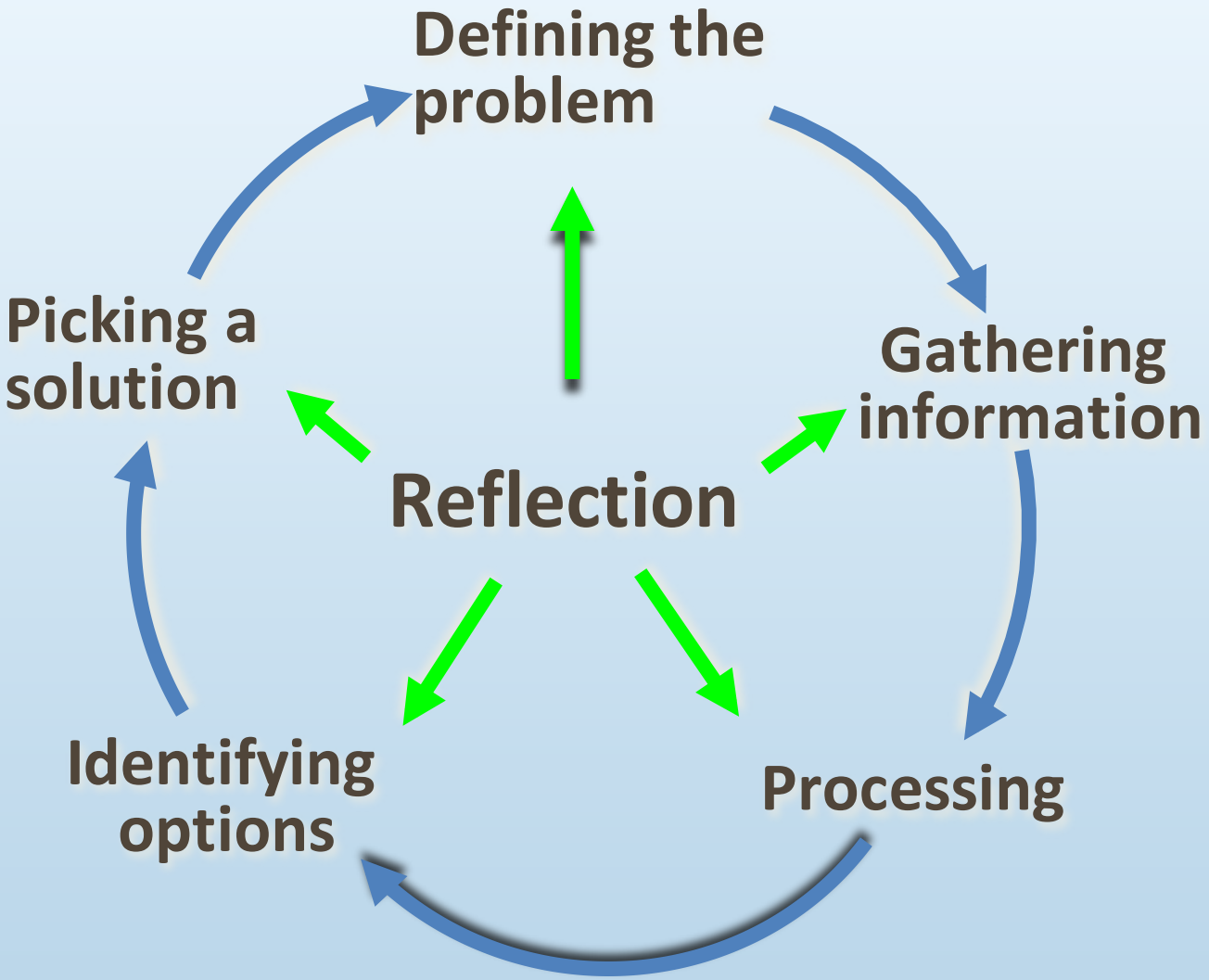
Give an example of a big decision you have recently made. How did you make it?

©2013 - Merrill Ewert



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Transformative Learning

Defining the problem

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

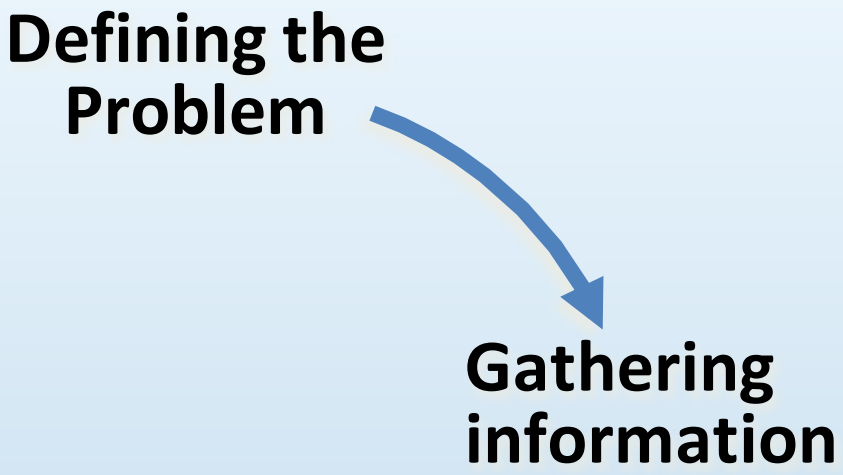
Transformative Learning

- Defining the Problem
  - Clarifying the question
  - Identifying the component parts

Defining the problem

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

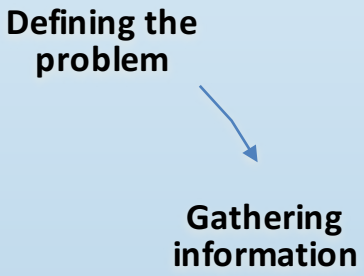
Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

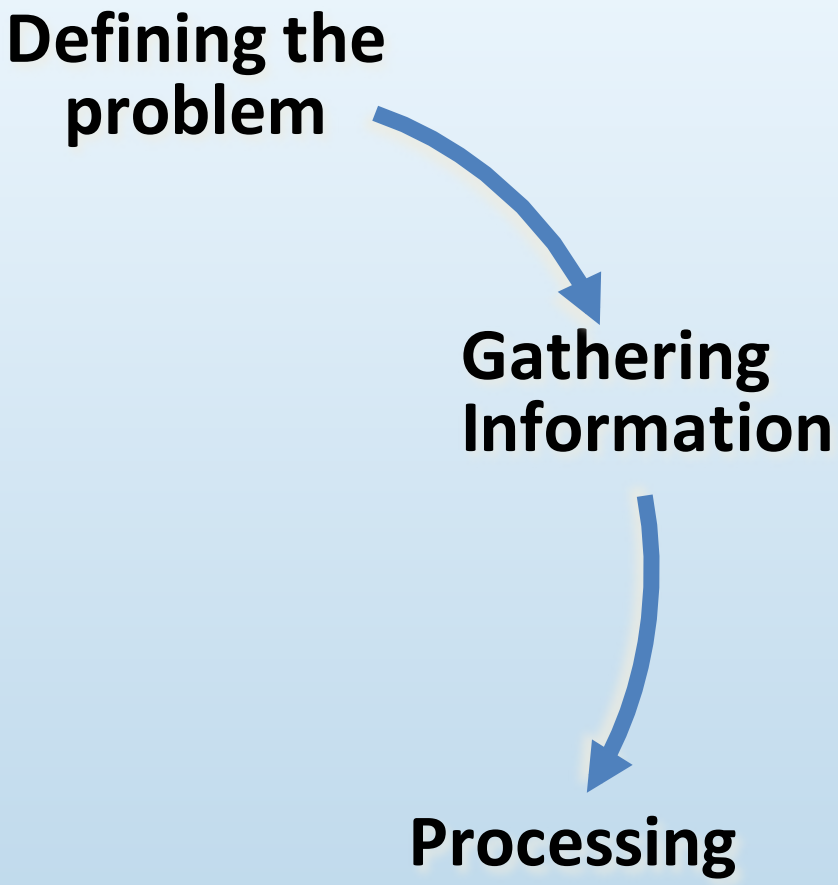
Transformative Learning

- Gathering information
  - Reading the text
  - Consulting peers
  - Other sources
  - Drawing on previous knowledge



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

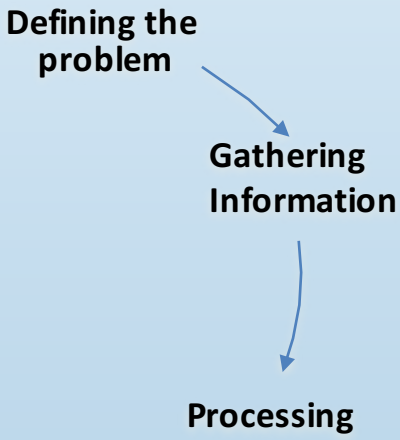
Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

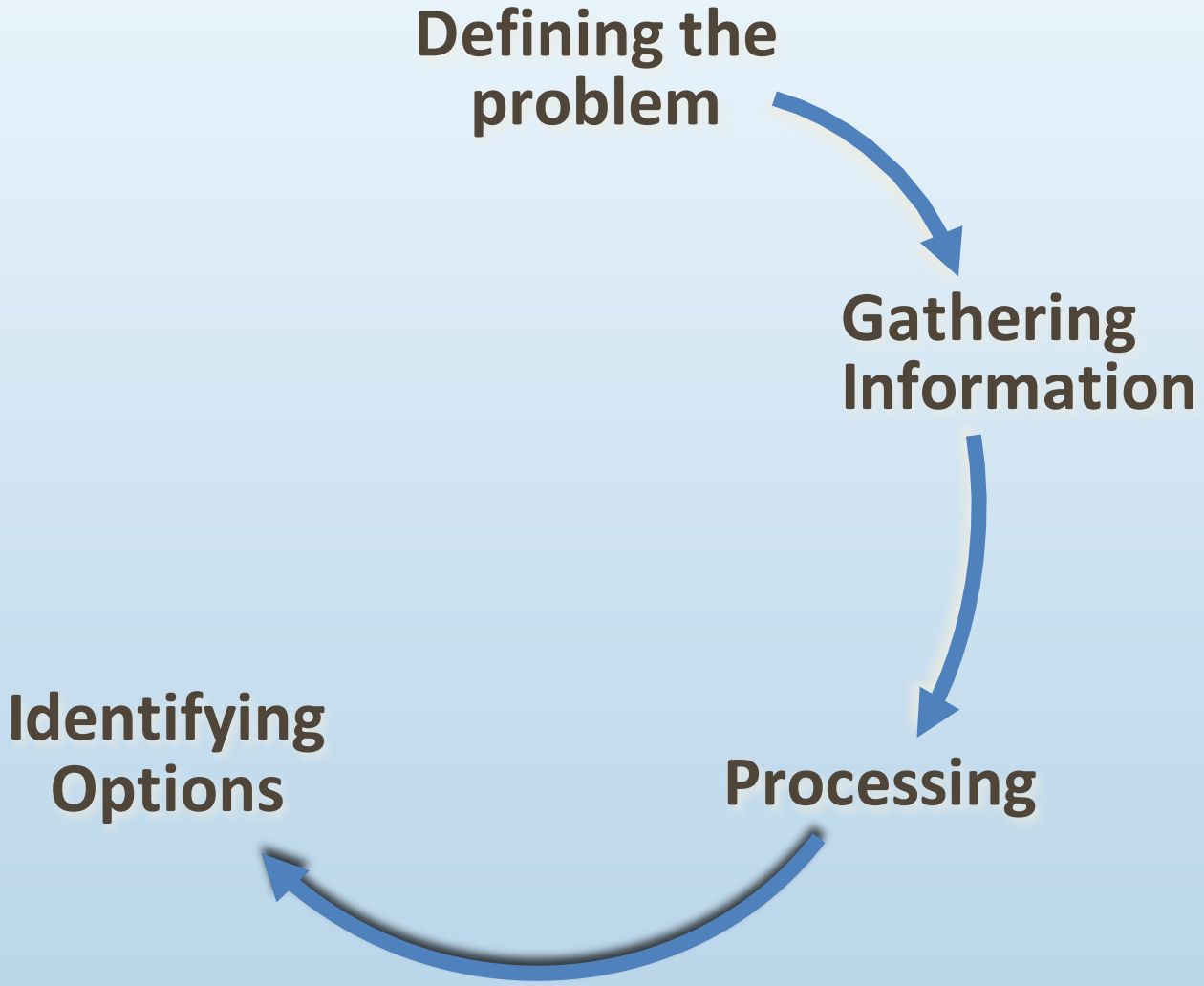
Transformative Learning

- Processing
  - Evaluating the data
  - Linking data to prior knowledge



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

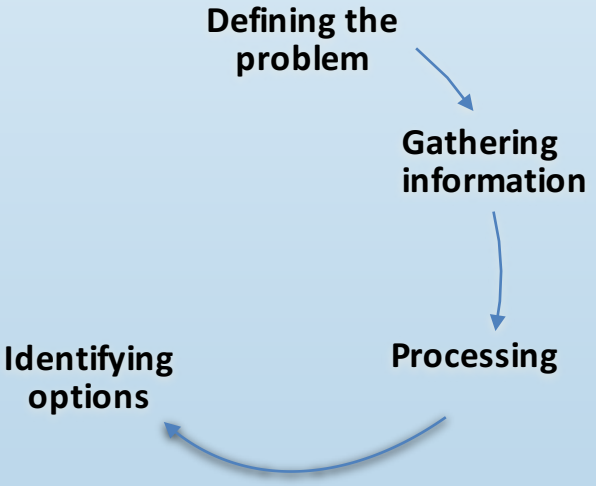
Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

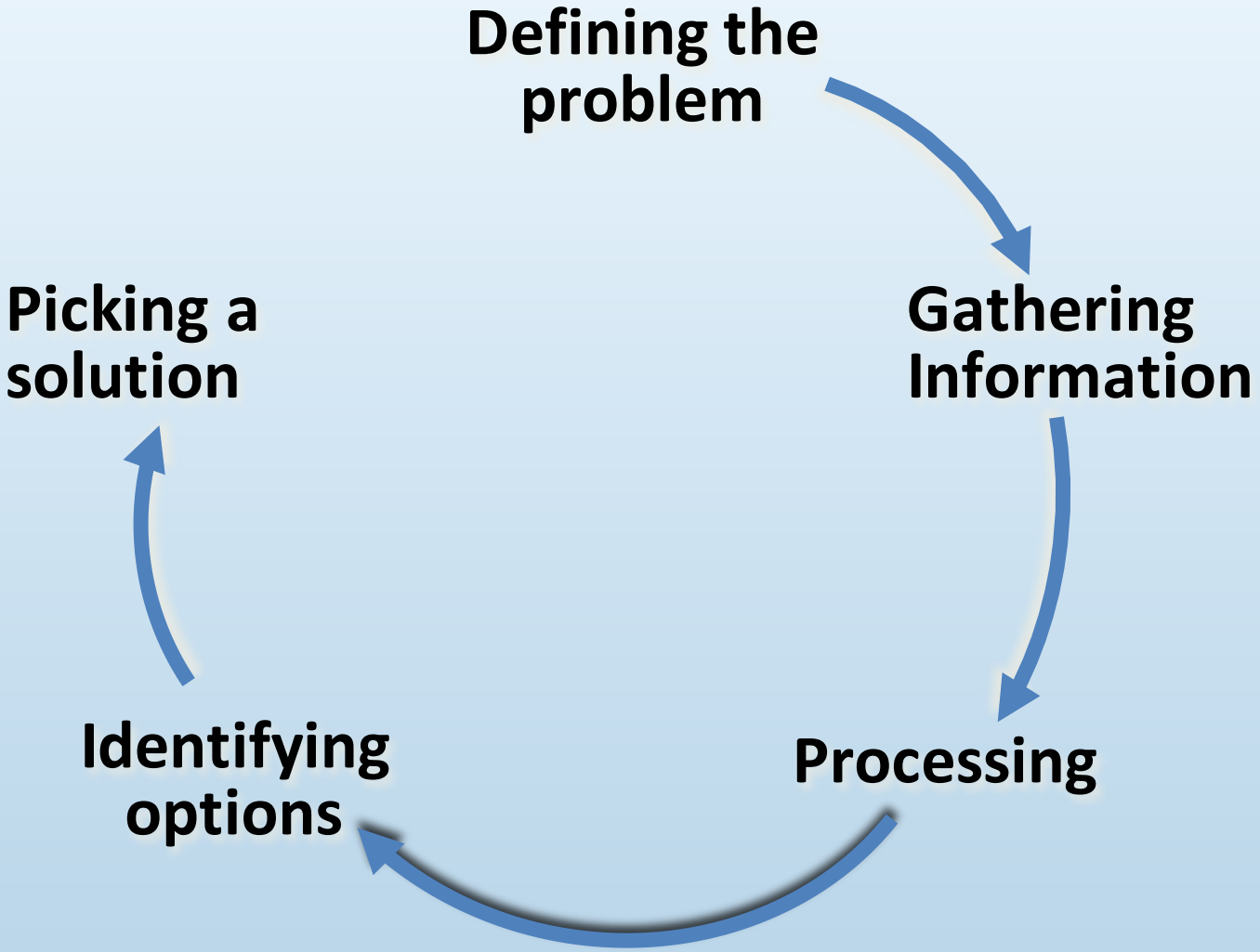
Transformative Learning

- Identifying Options
  - Finalize the options
  - Assess each of them



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

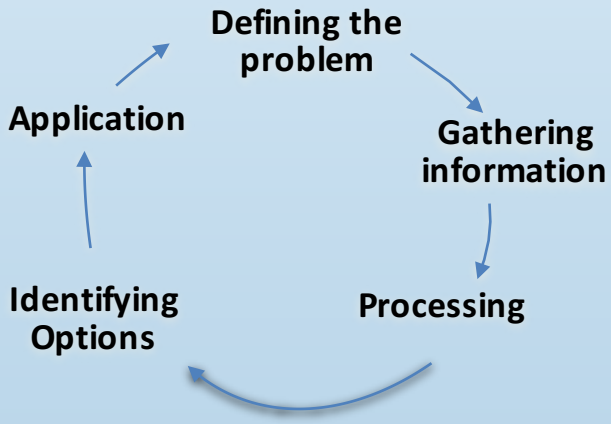
Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

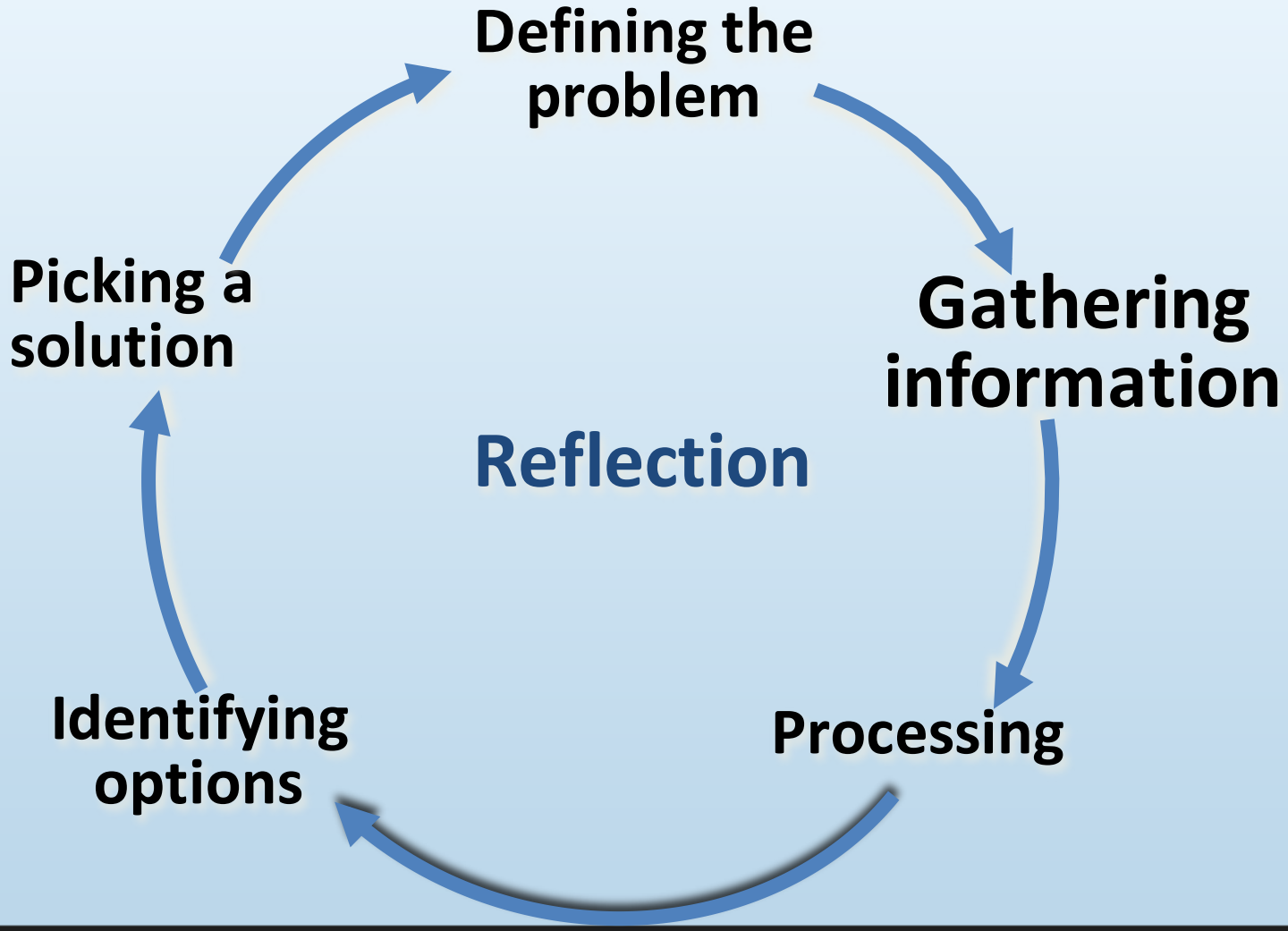
Transformative Learning

- Picking a solution
  - Choose a solution
  - Work the problem



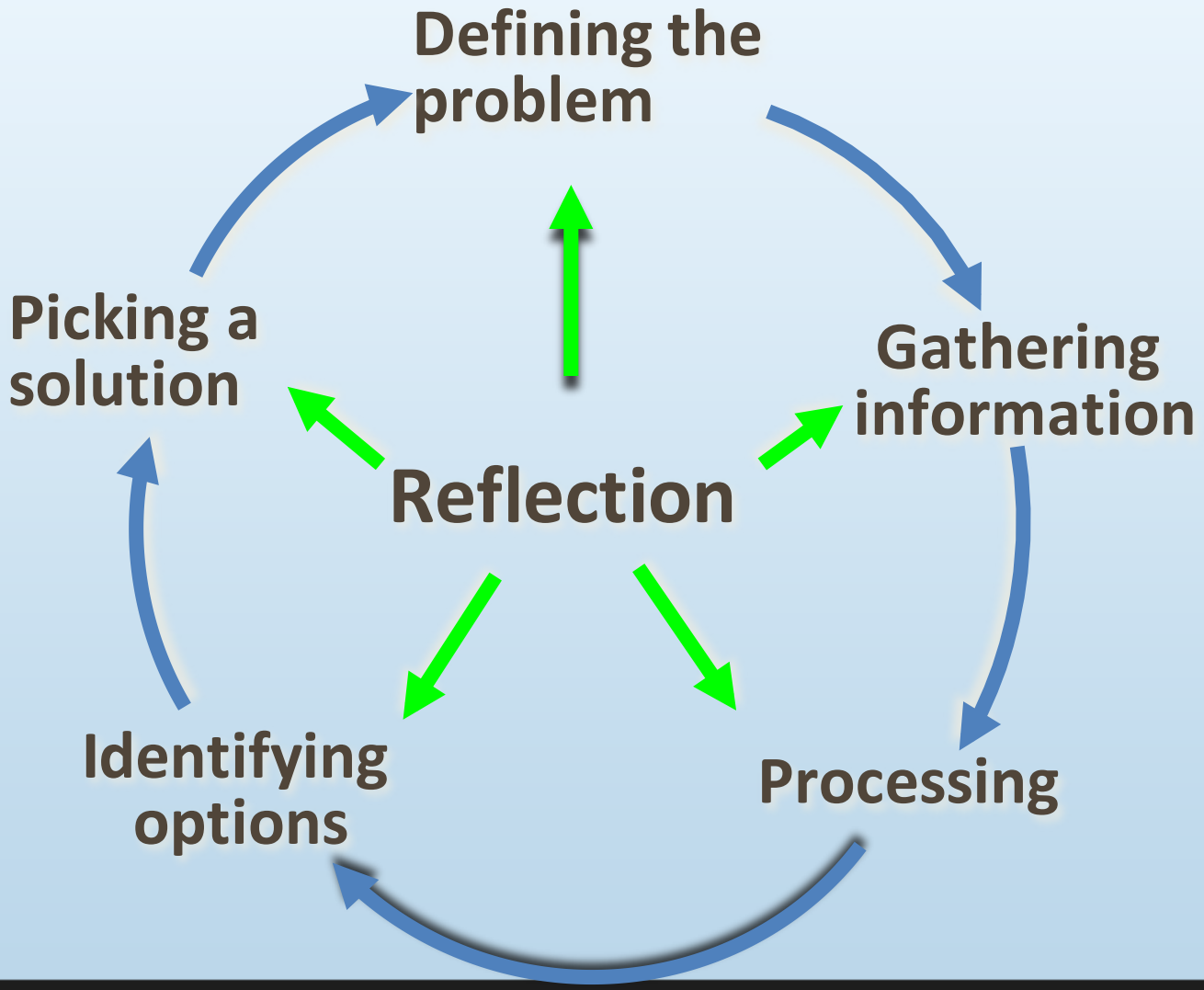
©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

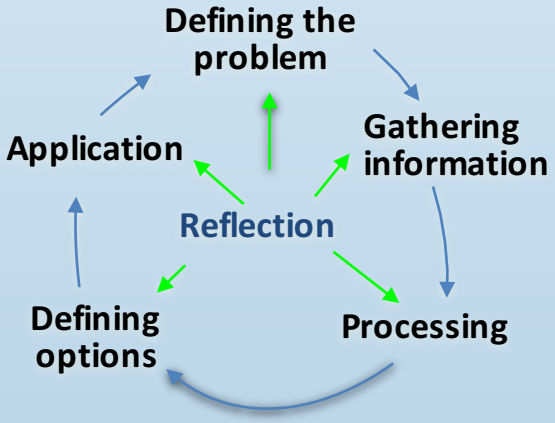
Transformative Learning



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Transformative Learning

- Reflection
  - Examine from the outside
  - Step back and consider
  - View from afar



©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Strategy:

- Be problem focused
- Link process to content
- Think about something
- Have learning as the goal

©2013 - Merrill Ewert

Skills needed:

- Asking questions
- Synthesizing what participants say
- Facilitating conversations
- Calling learners to action

©2013 - Merrill Ewert