

**Sense Making  
in Evaluation**

**Bethany Laursen**  
Laursen Evaluation &  
Design, LLC  
Michigan State University

EvalCafe @ WMU, February 8, 2017

---

---

---

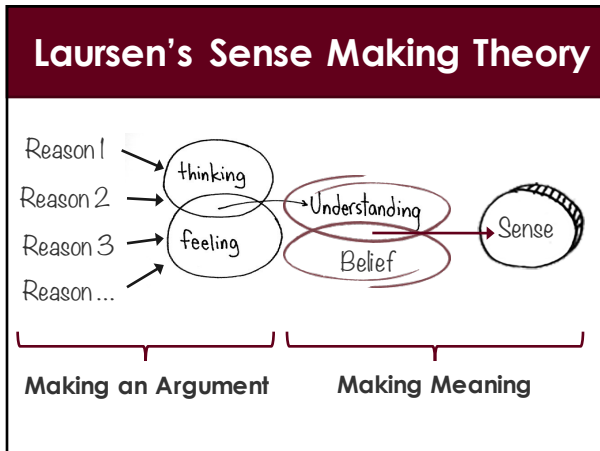
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Laursen's Sense Making Theory**

Sense making is  
the integration of reasons  
into an argument  
for understanding and believing  
what something means as an answer  
to a question.

---

---

---

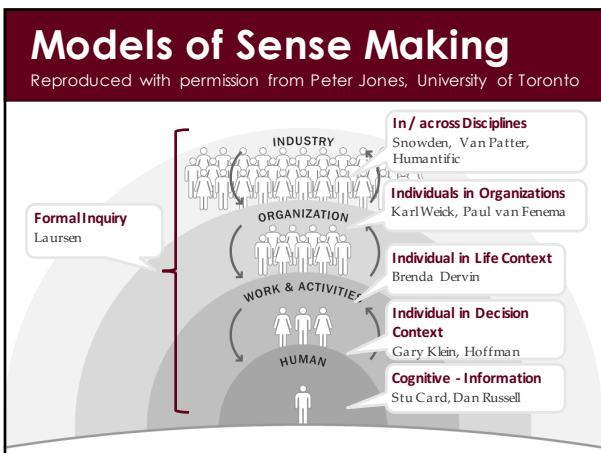
---

---

---

---

---



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Let's get it started

1. What features seem important?
2. What is clear?
3. What is confusing?
4. How much confidence do you have in what is clear?
5. What does it mean in the larger context?  
For your evaluation questions? For your program? For the field?
6. How does this make sense for us?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Check yo'self

1. How am I interpreting this?
2. What is prompting me to interpret it this way?
3. How much do I understand it?
4. How much do I believe it?
5. Why do I believe it?
6. How would I justify to others that this is what it means for our context?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---