

Hickory 102 Addendum: Canonical Language Definitions

This addendum defines the **canonical words, terms, and concepts** used in *When Activity Masks Direction*. These definitions are intended to stabilize meaning and support consistent interpretation across Hickory 102.

Canonical Words (Core Vocabulary)

Activity

Visible action such as meetings, programs, initiatives, or adjustments taking place.

Direction

A shared understanding of where effort is meant to lead over time.

Accumulation

When effort today makes tomorrow easier, stronger, or more effective.

Churn

Continuous change that consumes effort without producing lasting improvement.

Progress

Change that results in durable gains rather than repeated motion.

Trajectory

The long-term path created by repeated actions and decisions.

Capacity

The ability of a system to absorb pressure without repeated strain or breakdown.

Fragility

A condition where systems appear stable but fail easily under stress.

Interpretation

How people explain, understand, and make sense of what they observe happening.

Environmental Literacy

The ability to read how systems are actually behaving, beyond surface appearances.

Canonical Terms (Functional Relationships)

Activity vs. Direction

The distinction between doing things and knowing where those actions are leading.

Accumulation vs. Reset

Whether effort builds forward over time or restarts the same cycle again.

Motion without Trajectory

Ongoing activity that lacks a clear destination or long-term aim.

Churn Replacing Progress

A pattern where repeated adjustments stand in for real improvement.

Directional Inquiry

The habit of asking where actions actually lead, not just whether something is happening.

Canonical Concepts (Teaching Constructs)

Activity Masking Direction

A condition where constant motion creates the appearance of progress while obscuring the absence of a clear path forward.

Effort without Accumulation

Work that consumes time and energy but does not reduce future effort or risk.

Repetition without Resolution

Recurring action that revisits the same problems without closing them.

Motion as Reassurance

The tendency to use activity to calm uncertainty rather than confront unresolved questions.

Reading Systems in Real Time

Evaluating conditions as they unfold instead of relying on outdated explanations or assumptions.

Purpose of This Addendum

This glossary exists to reduce misinterpretation, prevent drift, and help readers apply the article's lessons beyond a single context.