Questions/Criteria for analyzing approaches to teaching and learning

How do you know if a program or approach is worthwhile?

1. Can the approach demonstrate appropriate outcomes?
    Are outcomes evident in student work?
    on traditional measures (e.g. test scores, attendance etc.)?
    for some or all populations?
    Is the approach supported by research?
    Who carried out the research (are they wholly or partially independent)?
    Do these research draw on multiple source of data?
    Are results consistent over time and across different contexts?
    Do they look at the effectiveness of different parts of the approach?
    What are they really evaluating?

2. Does the Theory of Action Change make sense?
    Is it explicit?
    internally consistent?
    plausible?
    How is it justified/supported? (research on learning/motivation,
    Theories of culture, organizational development, economics, etc.)

3. What values does it reflect?
    What's the purpose?

4. Is it practical? Can it be implemented successfully?
    What resources does it require to make it work?
    Can it be sustained?

5. Can it be trusted?
    Who's behind it?
    What's their background?
    What's their "track record"?

Ultimately, how does it compare with others?