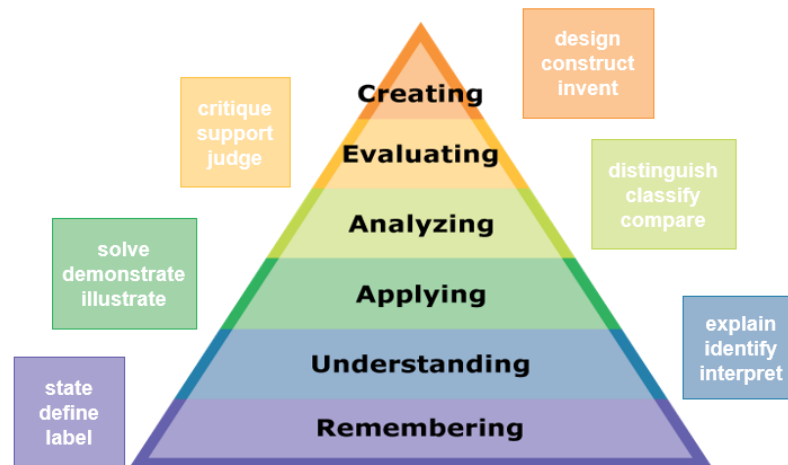




Helping Students Develop Higher-Order Thinking Skills

Bloom's Taxonomy illustrates a hierarchy of cognitive processes, and is often an underlying component of educational work. This taxonomy is a valuable resource that can help instructors align lectures, assignments, and exams with course goals.



1. Consider your course goals. What do you want students to know and be able to do by the end of the term?

Consider the level of cognition at which you expect students to perform. It is likely that tasks expected of students at the end of the course are those found at the upper level of the taxonomy.

2. Consider your projects and exams.

In what ways do these activities support students in achieving the course goals? These activities should provide students with necessary practice and instructor support need to achieve the end goals.

3. Consider your daily class sessions and the types of questions you pose.

Do you help students move from simple recall to application of the information? Do you offer students the opportunity to analyze or synthesize? As a content area expert, you can help students by making your thinking transparent.

Keeping Bloom's Taxonomy at the forefront of your instructional planning ensures that lectures, assignments, and exams are aligned with course learning goals.