

THINKING AT ITS BEST

A quick synopsis of terrible technical Taxonomy terms that terrify teachers to tears (a' la Bloom).

KNOWLEDGE – Recalling basic facts. The simplest level of thinking.

Verbs to use at this level:

explain	label	locate	identify
list	say	choose	read
show	recite	select	write
find	check	name	match

COMPREHENSION – Understanding the idea is the key.

translate	outline	alter
retell	expand	change
interpret	qualify	account for
define	reward	spell-out

APPLICATION – Using facts to find solutions to problems.

solve	relate	employ
adopt	illustrate	report
use	diagram	interview
try	construct	record

ANALYSIS – Examining parts in relationship to the whole.

breakdown	examine	inspect
uncover	take apart	categorize
look into	classify	compare
dissect	simplify	contrast

SYNTHESIS – Creating new or original ideas or products.

invent	develop	reorder
compose	blend	produce
combine	form	design
reorganize	originate	predict

EVALUATION – Judging the value of ideas or products.

translate	select	criticize
debate	reject	recommend
evaluate	determine	rank
mark	judge	editorialize

BRAINSTORMING

Brainstorming sessions with your students, individually or in a group setting, will be extremely useful in stimulating ideas hidden within those individuals.

Brainstorming is a fact-finding process used to generate as many ideas as possible around a given topic. The following rules will help your students utilize this process:

1. All ideas are valuable and should be recorded.
2. Criticism of ideas is not allowed.
3. The more ideas the better.
4. Hitchhiking on other's ideas (adding onto) is permitted.
5. Evaluation of ideas should take place after all ideas have been exhausted.
6. Evaluate ideas according to importance and limitations.

Included in this book is a form which can be duplicated for your students to use in the brainstorming process.

Make a large poster of the rules to display in your classroom. Encourage the students to have fun with the process – it will open the way to an avalanche of creative thinking!

INDIVIDUALIZED BRAINSTORMING

For individualization, each student should receive a “Brainstorm Your Ideas” form. This form should be used to record ideas on appropriate thinking levels. Students should tick the suitable taxonomy level at the top of the form.

GROUP BRAINSTORMING

Group brainstorming is the interaction and integration of ideas formulated in a small group setting. One student in each group should be designated as recorder who is responsible for listing the spontaneous ideas generated by group members. Remind the recorder to tick the appropriate box at the top of the “Brainstorm Your Ideas” form, and remember – “no criticism allowed!”

TO THE TEACHER

This book will help to develop within your students creative and critical thinking skills enabling them to achieve independence in organizing and elaborating on their ideas.

The activities in this book will expose your students to situations that stimulate creativity and guide them through critical skills.

“What if . . .” pages are geared for the students to use for expressing ideas. Using one’s imagination is the key issue. The pages are designed in a creative writing format. Encourage your students to share and enjoy each other’s ideas.

Facing each of the What if . . . pages is an activity centred page based on Bloom’s Taxonomy of Higher Level Critical Thinking Skills. The activities on these pages are written to challenge the students to apply a multi-level thinking process. It is felt that the activity pages will guide your students to develop similar activities of their own.

For additional help in formulating higher level thinking activities, refer to “Thinking At Its Best” on page 6.

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