

Bloom's Taxonomy: Description and Verb List

Asking students to think at higher levels, beyond simple recall, is an excellent way to stimulate students' thought processes. Different types of questions require us to use different kinds or levels of thinking.

According to the original version of Bloom's Taxonomy, human thinking skills can be arranged in the following six categories:

1. **Knowledge:** remembering or recalling appropriate, previously learned information to draw out factual (usually right or wrong) answers. Use words and phrases such as *how many, when, where, list, define, tell, describe, identify*, etc., to extract factual answers, testing students' recall and recognition.
2. **Comprehension:** grasping or understanding the meaning of informational materials. Use words such as *describe, explain, estimate, predict, identify, differentiate*, etc., to encourage students to translate, interpret, and extrapolate.
3. **Application:** applying previously learned information (or knowledge) to new and unfamiliar situations. Use words such as *demonstrate, apply, illustrate, show, solve, examine, classify, experiment*, etc., to encourage students to apply knowledge to situations that are new and unfamiliar.
4. **Analysis:** breaking down information into parts, or examining (and trying to understand the organizational structure of) information. Use words and phrases such as *what are the differences, analyze, explain, compare, separate, classify, arrange*, etc., to encourage students to break information down into parts.
5. **Synthesis:** applying prior knowledge and skills to combine elements into a pattern that was not clear before. Use words and phrases such as *combine, rearrange, substitute, create, design, invent, what if*, etc., to encourage students to combine elements into a new pattern.
6. **Evaluation:** judging or deciding according to some set of criteria, without real right or wrong answers. Use words such as *assess, decide, measure, select, explain, conclude, compare, summarize*, etc., to encourage students to make judgments according to a set of criteria.

You can use verbs aligned to Bloom's Taxonomy, such as the examples given below, to create discussion questions and lesson plans that ensure your students' thinking progresses to higher levels.

1. Knowledge		2. Comprehension	
Count	Read	Cite	Interpret
Define	Recall	Classify	Locate
Describe	Recite	Conclude	Make sense of
Draw	Record	Convert	Paraphrase
Find	Reproduce	Describe	Predict
Identify	Select	Discuss	Report
Label	Sequence	Estimate	Restate
List	State	Explain	Review
Match	Tell	Generalize	Summarize
Name	View	Give examples	Understand
Quote	Write	Illustrate	

3. Application		4. Analysis	
Adapt	Include	Break down	Focus
Anticipate	Incorporate	Characterize	Illustrate
Categorize	Inform	Classify	Infer
Collaborate	Initiate	Compare	Limit
Combine	Instruct	Contrast	Outline
Communicate	Integrate	Correlate	Point out
Compare	Interview	Debate	Prioritize
Compile	Paint	Deduce	Recognize
Compose	Participate	Diagram	Relate
Construct	Predict	Differentiate	Research
Contrast	Prepare	Discriminate	Separate
Create	Produce	Distinguish	Subdivide
Design	Provide	Examine	
Develop	Relate		
Devise	Report		
Express	Select		
Facilitate	Show		
Generate	Solve		
Imitate	Transfer		
Implement	Use		
5. Synthesis		6. Evaluation	
Adapt	Invent	Appraise	Interpret
Anticipate	Make up	Argue	Judge
Categorize	Model	Assess	Justify
Collaborate	Modify	Choose	Predict
Combine	Negotiate	Compare	Prioritize
Compare	Organize	Conclude	Prove
Compile	Perform	Contrast	Rank
Compose	Plan	Criticize	Rate
Construct	Pretend	Critique	Reframe
Contrast	Produce	Decide	Select
Create	Progress	Defend	Support
Design	Propose	Evaluate	
Develop	Rearrange		
Devise	Reconstruct		
Express	Reinforce		
Formulate	Reorganize		
Generate	Revise		
Incorporate	Rewrite		
Individualize	Structure		
Integrate	Substitute		

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