



Embedding Learning Strategies into the Curriculum

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Learning About Learning

Why embed learning strategies into the classroom?

- More effective learning occurs
 1. Develop a repertoire of effective academic habits
 2. Foster transferable skills development
 3. Gain awareness of learning processes
 4. Build critical thinking skills

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5. Enhance ability to master course content
6. Enrich learning environment
7. Increase frequency/variety of assessment & feedback
8. Create connections among students & available supports
9. Increase student achievement & engagement

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How can you embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

Use your syllabus

Build time management skills

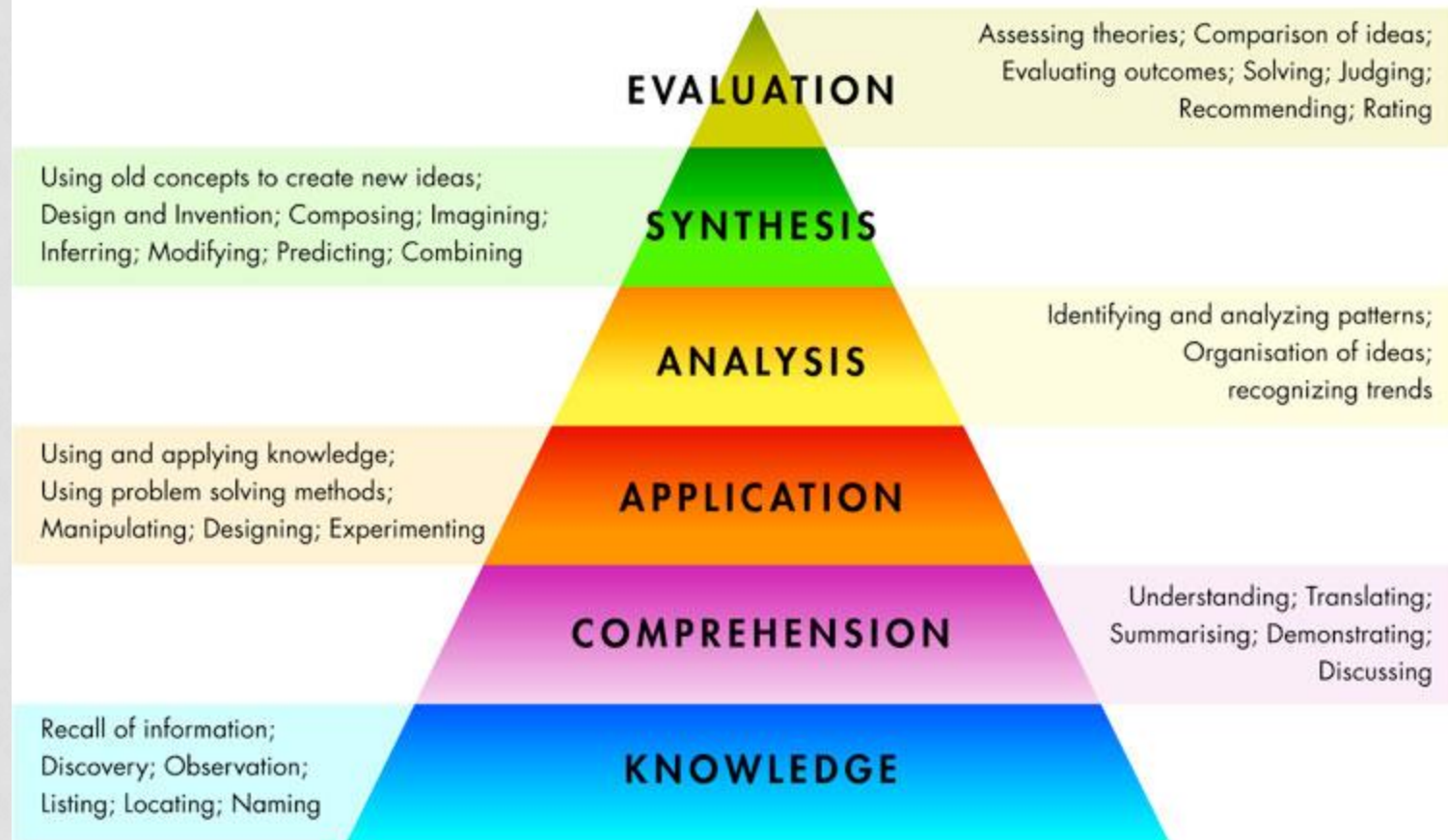
- create a timeline in your syllabus for an assignment
- have students transfer information such as due dates

Be explicit in your expectations

- state learning objectives that emphasize analysis, synthesis, and evaluation

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B L O O M S T A X O N O M Y



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Highlight organizational skills by emphasizing the importance of the course syllabus—make it a “living document”

- Continually refer to the syllabus
- Activity to extract, discuss, and reorganize the information
- Leave blanks that students are expected to fill in
- Show the one-minute video “What is a Syllabus”

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In class

Help students build a strong conceptual framework so they can organize information into meaningful patterns

- Use frameworks such as concept maps, outlines.
- Relate concepts to real life and what students know

Build in a study process

- Preview
- Discuss
- Review

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“Make explicit the implicit demands of the course”
(Arendale & Ghere, 2005, p. 228)

- Survey students to determine if they know how much time should be spent on homework outside class
- Discuss how much time should be spent to complete an assignment that is weighted at 20%

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

2. Tie the textbook to effective note-taking

- “Walk through” the textbook with students
 - Table of contents, glossary, index, study questions, key terms, bolded information
- Discuss various methods of note-taking
 - Refer to note-taking handouts at the ASC’s website

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

3. Integrate study skills workshops into the course

- Embed two ASC time management workshops into the syllabus
 - One at the beginning of the semester, one after the mid-term
 - Can integrate specific assignment/exam planning and deadlines into the workshop

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

5. Model ways to understand academic content and learning strategies that students can use to study for exams

- As a class, develop a practice exam to help study
- Discuss strategies for different types of exam questions
 - Refer to exam tips handouts at the ASC's website
- Discuss exam anxiety and how to minimize it

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

6. Utilize small peer-group cooperative learning strategies

- Learning is enhanced by social interaction
- Teamwork on projects develops higher-order thinking
- Assists students to build communities of practice
- Can be very simple: students form small groups and develop a set of flashcards

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

7. Create/modify reading activities/exercises to enhance students' organization, analysis, and critical thinking skills

- Ask students each week to recognize key points in a reading and summarize the information

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

8. Use the writing process and writing assignments to foster writing skills
 - For a long paper assignment, embed the ASC Writing Advisor into the course at various dates to discuss the stages of writing an effective paper

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How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

9. Encourage students to use one another as learning resources
 - Small in-class group activities help students become comfortable with one-another
 - Encourage students to form study groups outside of class
 - Refer to the ASC's handout "Study Groups: Strategies for Success"

Learning About Learning

How can instructors embed learning strategies into the curriculum?

10. Embed the ASC Learning Strategies Advisor into your classroom

- The Advisor will conduct a series of in-class learning strategies workshops contextualized for specific courses
- The Advisor will work with students in key student success areas
 - Time management, notetaking, textbook reading, study strategies

References

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ASC us!

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