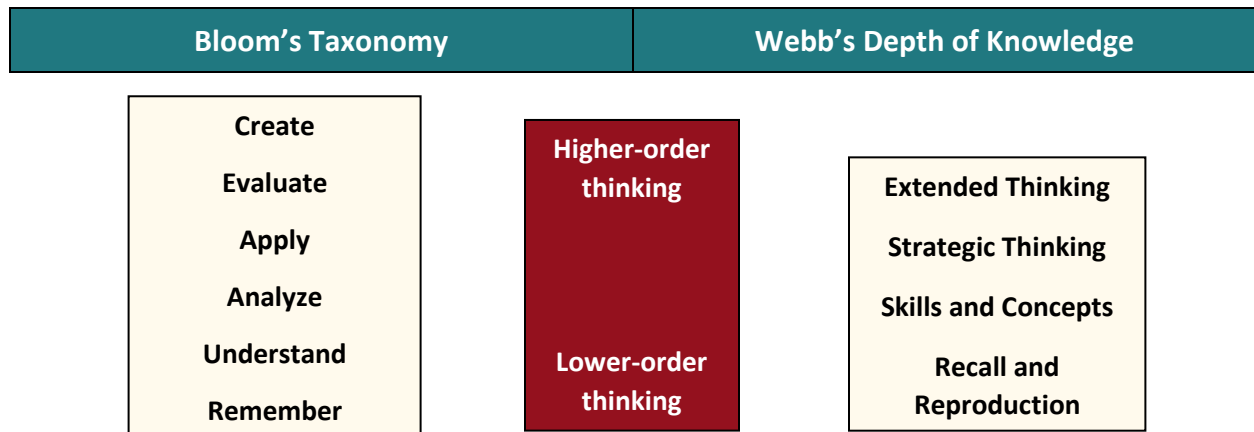


## Let's Think about This

Taking time to think is one of the most important values we can encourage in our students. Of course, we are constantly thinking as we make sense of our experiences, make plans and decisions, or create and express our ideas. In adult education, as students are increasing their reading, writing, math, and technology skills, they are also developing their thinking skills. With practice, students can become better, deeper thinkers. How can we help?

### 1. Teach students about systems of thinking.



### 2. Encourage curiosity, exploration, problem posing, and creativity.

- Find out what students are interested in and provide materials and time for them to do projects.
- Make time for students to talk about what they are learning.
- Engage students in cooperative learning groups.
- Facilitate learning as students solve problems, take actions, and create.
- Integrate technology into daily activities, encouraging research and projects.
- Give students choices and allow for activities that take extended periods of time.

### 3. Move toward higher-order thinking activities in your lessons.

Design, analyze, connect, create, produce, imagine, build, reorganize, study, experiment, invent, investigate, propose, prove, compose, plan, gather information



Revise, explain, cite evidence, draw a conclusion, debate, describe, paraphrase, apply a formula



Identify, memorize, report, summarize, organize, calculate, match, quote, classify, prioritize

#### 4. Ask questions that promote higher-order thinking and encourage students to ask their own questions.

##### Reading

- Is this a good title? Why?
- What is the author's point of view? Why do you think he/she wrote this?
- What was a problem discussed and do you have an alternative solution?
- What was the most interesting part to you?
- Do any of the people remind you of yourself or someone you know?
- Which character would you choose for a friend?
- What if this story happened in a different place or time? How would it be different?
- What do you know about the source of this article and how do you know it is accurate?
- How does this compare with another source about the same topic?
- Is there something you read that makes you want to get more information?
- What do you think about \_\_\_\_? How did you reach that conclusion?
- What's your interpretation of that?
- Is there a common theme in the two stories we read?

##### Writing

- Can you rearrange the information in another way to make it clearer?
- Is there anything here that is irrelevant or redundant?
- Can you think of an example to use?
- Can you add any details to support or show this better?
- Is there any other information you need to prove your point?
- Do you think this will work for your audience?
- Is there a way to make this more interesting /amusing /exciting?
- Are any sentences too long or too short?
- Do you think there is a better word to use here?
- Do you think you are accomplishing your purpose for writing this?
- Do you think this would be stronger with a reference and a citation?

## Math, science, social studies

- Does anyone have a different answer? Show us how you got that answer.
- Is there more than one answer?
- What rules apply here?
- Can you say that in your own words?
- Is there another way to look at this?
- What other strategy could you consider?
- How could you test that idea out?
- Is that what you thought would happen? What do you think made the difference?
- What other ways could you \_\_\_\_?
- How does what we see fit with \_\_\_\_?
- What would you recommend?
- What are the pros and cons of \_\_\_\_?
- How would you design a \_\_\_\_?
- What do you think would happen if \_\_\_\_?
- How is this like \_\_\_\_?
- How would this change if we \_\_\_\_?
- How do you know that's the correct answer?
- What facts would support that?
- Can you predict what will happen?
- Can we apply this to a new situation?
- How can we solve that problem?
- Why do you suppose \_\_\_\_?
- What do you notice about that?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks if that happens?

## Self-Reflection

- I just learned \_\_\_\_\_. Where could I use this again?
- How did I feel emotionally today?
- Do I see a pattern in how I am responding?
- What do I want to do more of /less of?
- How well did I do today?
- What kind of feedback did I receive today?
- What worked?
- What do I need to improve?
- Now that I understand \_\_\_\_\_. What will I do next?
- What's my plan? How will I start?
- What questions am I left with?