

Writing Better Objectives

Definition

- Goal
 - Broad statement of purpose
 - The aim of the activity
- Objective
 - Clear statement of anticipated results
 - Focus primarily on what participants will do/learn as a result of attending the activity
 - Best when measurable

Components of High Quality Objectives

- Condition
 - Commonly a disease, state, process, step
- Behavioral verbs
 - Tells what is expected from the learner
- Published standard
 - Allows performance to be measured against some standard

Examples

- Goal
 - Improved behavior management in patients with dementia
- Objective
 - Design treatment strategies based upon nationally published guidelines that improve behavior management in patients with dementia
 - According to NIH guidelines, select an appropriate treatment option for mood stabilization in a patient with dementia

Importance of Words

- Some verbs are better than others
- Those that relate to specific actions or behaviors are critical

Unacceptable Words

- Know, learn, understand, improve, increase
- Think critically, really know, expand horizons, appreciate, grow
- These words should be rarely if ever used as they are not measurable and are viewed as unacceptable words by the ACCME

Effective Words

- Involve cognitive outcome domains
 - Knowledge, application, synthesis, evaluation
- Involve affective outcome domains
 - Receiving, responding, valuing
- Involve psychomotor outcome domains
 - Perception, adaptation, origination

Bloom's Taxonomy

Example of Effective Learning Objectives

After attending this session, the participant should be able to-

- Outline the current clinical practice for the treatment of primary and metastatic brain and spinal cord tumors in adults and children
- Discuss the process of translating laboratory research into clinical trials for patients with malignant gliomas
- Describe current advances in molecular biology, immune therapy, stem cell therapeutics and drug delivery systems for brain tumors
- Review challenges caregivers face in caring for patients with brain tumors
- Identify quality of life issues for patients with brain tumors and the effectiveness of measurement tools

Behavioral Verbs: Cognitive

Knowledge	Comprehension	Application	Analysis	Synthesis	Evaluation
Define	Discuss	Compute	Distinguish	Diagnose	Evaluate
List	Describe	Demonstrate	Analyze	Propose	Assess
Recall	Explain	Illustrate	Compare	Design	Justify
Name	Identify	Perform	Contrast	Manage	Judge
Recognize	Translate	Interpret	Categorize	Summarize	Rate
State	Restate	Apply	Appraise	Plan	Choose
Repeat	Express	Use	Classify	Formulate	Decide
Record	Convert	Practice	Outline	Arrange	
label	Estimate	Predict	Differentiate	Organize	

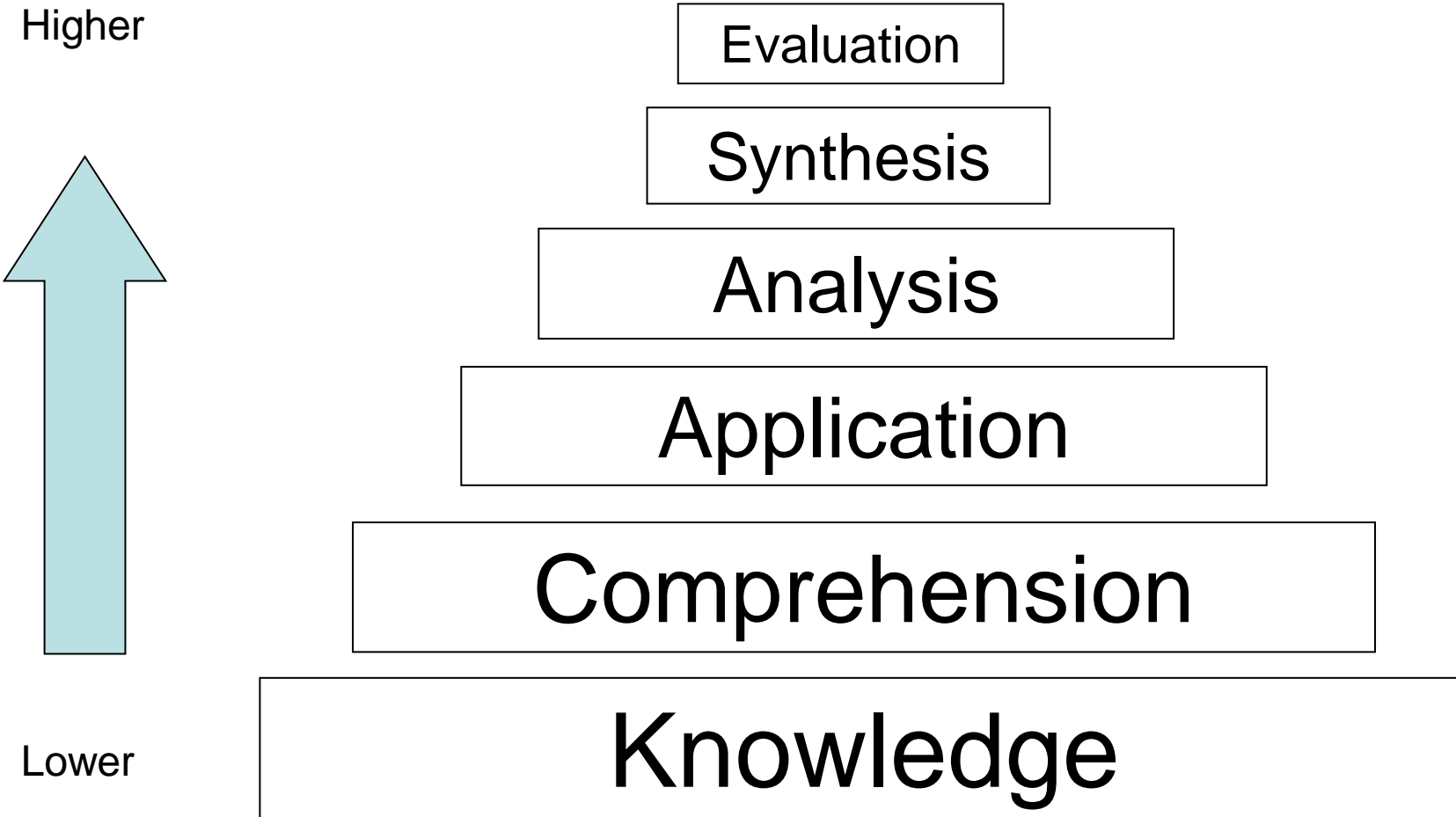
Behavioral Verbs: Affective

Receiving	Responding	Valuing	Organization	Value Complex
Sit erect	Answer	Join	Adhere	Act
Reply	Greet	Share	Integrate	Practice
Accept	Read	Complete	Organize	Discriminate
Show	Report	Follow		Influence

Behavioral verbs: Psychomotor

Perception	Set	Guided response	Mechanism	Complex	Adaptation	Origination
Identify	React	Display	Display	Display	Adapt	Create
Detect	Respond	Manipulate	Manipulate	Manipulate	Revise	Compose
Differentiate	Start	Work	Work	Work	Change	Arrange
		Perform	Perform	Operate		

Cognitive Pyramid



Examples

- Given a healthy child, list the routine vaccines for a two year old that are currently recommended by the CDC
- In a simulation of ventricular fibrillation, you will direct a team through appropriate ACLS protocol until the mannequin shows a normal cardiac rhythm
- For your terminally ill patient, successfully defend your position on physician assisted suicide in an ethics committee meeting