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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Comprehension</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
<th>Synthesis</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Define</td>
<td>Discuss</td>
<td>Compute</td>
<td>Distinguish</td>
<td>Diagnose</td>
<td>Evaluate</td>
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<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td>Describe</td>
<td>Demonstrate</td>
<td>Analyze</td>
<td>Propose</td>
<td>Assess</td>
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<td>Recall</td>
<td>Explain</td>
<td>Illustrate</td>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td>Justify</td>
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<td>Name</td>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>Perform</td>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>Manage</td>
<td>Judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recognize</td>
<td>Translate</td>
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<td>Summarize</td>
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<td>Plan</td>
<td>Choose</td>
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<td>Repeat</td>
<td>Express</td>
<td>Use</td>
<td>Classify</td>
<td>Formulate</td>
<td>Decide</td>
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<tr>
<td>Record</td>
<td>Convert</td>
<td>Practice</td>
<td>Outline</td>
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<td>Organize</td>
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<tr>
<td>label</td>
<td>Estimate</td>
<td>Predict</td>
<td>Differentiate</td>
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</table>
## Behavioral Verbs: Affective

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Receiving</th>
<th>Responding</th>
<th>Valuing</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Value Complex</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Sit erect</td>
<td>Answer</td>
<td>Join</td>
<td>Adhere</td>
<td>Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reply</td>
<td>Greet</td>
<td>Share</td>
<td>Integrate</td>
<td>Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accept</td>
<td>Read</td>
<td>Complete</td>
<td>Organize</td>
<td>Discriminate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Show</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>Follow</td>
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<td>Influence</td>
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# Behavioral verbs: Psychomotor

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Perception</th>
<th>Set</th>
<th>Guided response</th>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Complex</th>
<th>Adaptation</th>
<th>Origination</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>React</td>
<td>Display</td>
<td>Display</td>
<td>Display</td>
<td>Adapt</td>
<td>Create</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detect</td>
<td>Respond</td>
<td>Manipulate</td>
<td>Manipulate</td>
<td>Manipulate</td>
<td>Revise</td>
<td>Compose</td>
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<td>Differentiate</td>
<td>Start</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Work</td>
<td>Change</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform</td>
<td>Perform</td>
<td>Operate</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cognitive Pyramid

Knowledge

Comprehension

Application

Analysis

Synthesis

Evaluation
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