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Writing Observable and Measurable Learning Objectives

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Writing Observable and Measurable Learning Objectives for Student Assessment



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Is this familiar?

- Can you tell me what's on the test?
- Just tell me what I need to do to get an A!

What are they asking for?

- What can I expect in this course?
- What is expected of me?

Syllabus

- What am I going to learn?
- When am I going to learn?
- How am I going to learn?
- How will I know that I've learned?

Why Write Learning Objectives?

- Clarifies expectations
- Connects content and assessment around learning
- Helps unify and integrate content
- Guides selection of learning activities
- Learners know what to expect and what's expected

What are Learning Objectives?

- An outcome statement
- Learner should be able to exhibit following instruction
- Specific knowledge, skills, attitudes
- **For the learner, not the instructor**

SMART Components

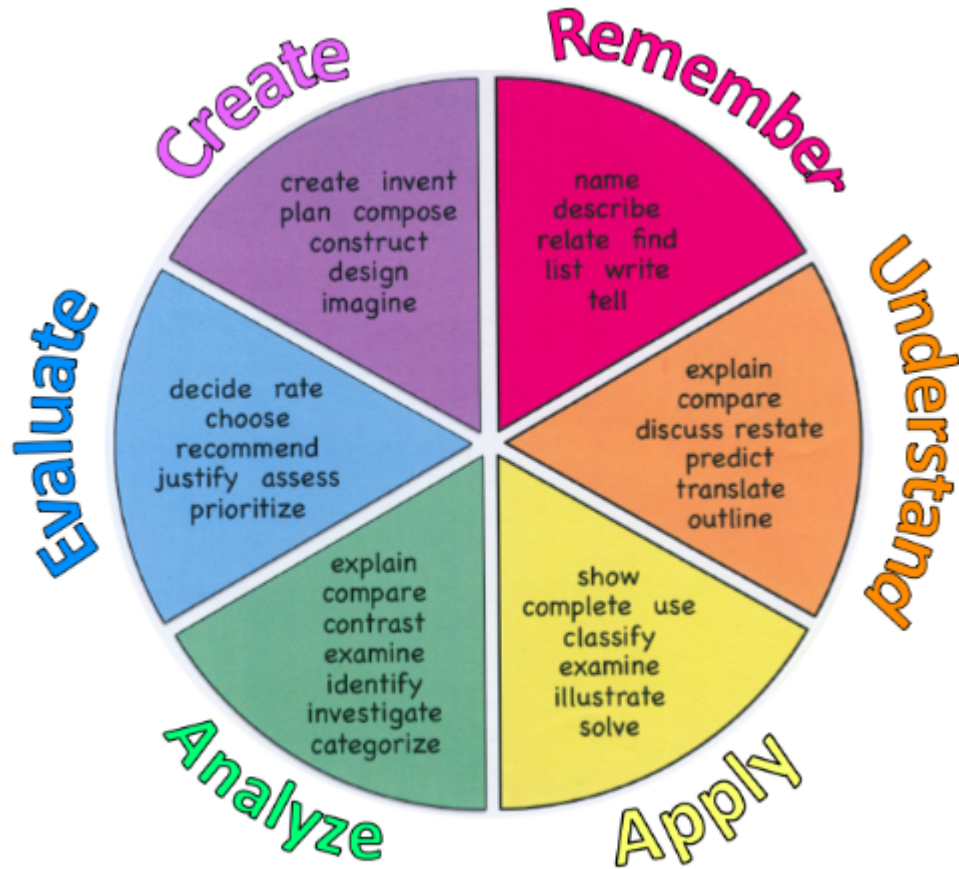
- Specific
- Measurable/Observable
- Attainable
- Relevant and results-oriented
- Target to learner and level of learning

How to Write an Objective

“At the end of the course, you should/will be able to...”

- observable action word
- avoid ambiguous terms: understand, learn, grasp
- specify criteria of performance (if applicable)

Google search:
Bloom's taxonomy >
Images



Draft Learning Outcomes

what do you expect your student to know, do, demonstrate, or produce as a result of taking your course?

Evidence of student achievement

how will they show you they can exhibit these expectations?

Learning Activities

how will they practice learning so that they can exhibit these expectations?

Content

What teaching methods and materials will you use to help them achieve the expectations?

Or Crosswalk

OBJECTIVE	ASSESSMENT	LEARNING ACTIVITY	CONTENT

Describe the learning, not the task



you will read one journal article on trade flows.



apply the analysis presented in a journal article on trade flows, and predict the effects that higher commodity prices will have on the U.S. trade deficit.

Use precise terms



Understand, know, be aware of



Define, describe, paraphrase, list

Aim for 5 - 8 objectives

What can reasonably be accomplished in a semester

Don't list topics/content - you will learn about the history of Distance Education

Don't list learning activities - you will write three essays

Connect & Reinforce

Connect back to objectives throughout the course.

“This learning activity will help you meet this expectation of learning”

Alignment

Course Goal

Learning Objectives

Learning Activities

Assessment

All are connected to each other