BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

YOUR GUIDE TO WRITING PURPOSEFUL QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A USEFUL QUESTION WHEN IT COMES TO LITERATURE CIRCLES?

- One that is interesting
- One that cannot be answered with yes or no
- One that takes into account the various opinions and experiences of group members
- One that might spark other questions
- One that requires some explanation of the answer
- One that does not have a single answer

SO HOW DO YOU WRITE A GOOD QUESTION?

- Decide what type of information you want to discuss
- Consider shared terminology
- Avoid generalizations and absolutes
- Use Bloom's Taxonomy

WAIT—WHAT'S BLOOM'S TAXONOMY?

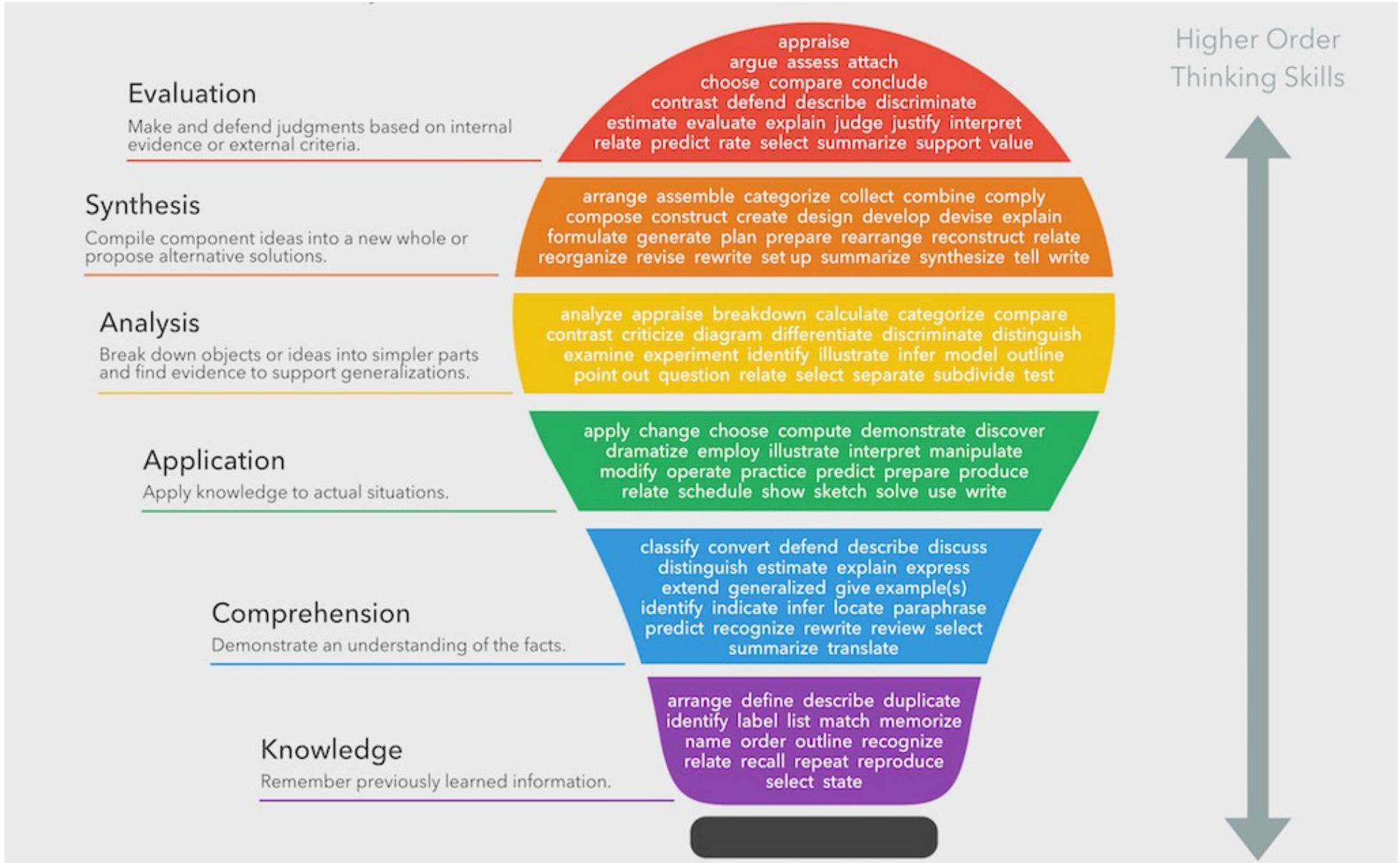
- In 1956, Bloom and some other guys got together and created a framework for categorizing educational goals.
- Consisted of 6 categories:
  - Knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation
- While each category has subcategories, all lie along a continuum of simple to complex and concrete to abstract

THE 6 MAIN CATEGORIES (AS REVISED IN 2001)

- Remember
  - Recognizing
  - Recalling
- Understand
  - Interpreting
  - Exemplifying
  - Classifying
  - Summarizing
  - Inferring
  - Comparing
  - Explaining
- Apply
  - Executing
  - Implementing
- Analyze
  - Differentiating
  - Organizing
  - Attributing
- Evaluate
  - Checking
  - Critiquing
- Create
  - Generating
  - Planning
  - Producing

SO WHY IS THIS HELPFUL TO YOU?

- When you figure out which category of understanding you want to explore, there are specific words you can use to lead the discussion in that direction.


Evaluation
Make and defend judgments based on internal evidence or external criteria.
appraise
argue assess attach
choose compare conclude
contrast defend describe discriminate
estimate evaluate explain judge justify interpret
relate predict rate select summarize support value
Synthesis
Compile component ideas into a new whole or propose alternative solutions.
arrange assemble categorize collect combine comply
compose construct create design develop devise explain
formulate generate plan prepare rearrange reconstruct relate
reorganize revise rewrite set up summarize synthesize tell write
Analysis
Break down objects or ideas into simpler parts and find evidence to support generalizations.
analyze appraise breakdown calculate categorize compare
contrast criticize diagram differentiate discriminate distinguish
examine experiment identify illustrate infer model outline
point out question relate select separate subdivide test
Application
Apply knowledge to actual situations.
apply change choose compute demonstrate discover
dramatize employ illustrate interpret manipulate
modify operate practice predict prepare produce
relate schedule show sketch solve use write
Comprehension
Demonstrate an understanding of the facts.
classify convert defend describe discuss
distinguish estimate explain express
extend generalized give example(s)
identify indicate infer locate paraphrase
predict recognize rewrite review select
summarize translate
Knowledge
Remember previously learned information.
arrange define describe duplicate
identify label list match memorize
name order outline recognize
relate recall repeat reproduce
select state
Higher Order Thinking Skills

LET'S PRACTICE!

- Assume that I want the discussion to be about analyzing pineapple on pizza. Look at the taxonomy and write a question to inspire this.
- Now I want to put together all of the short stories we have read and see how they might have been different if there was an archetypal hero introduced to the story. Write me a question.