

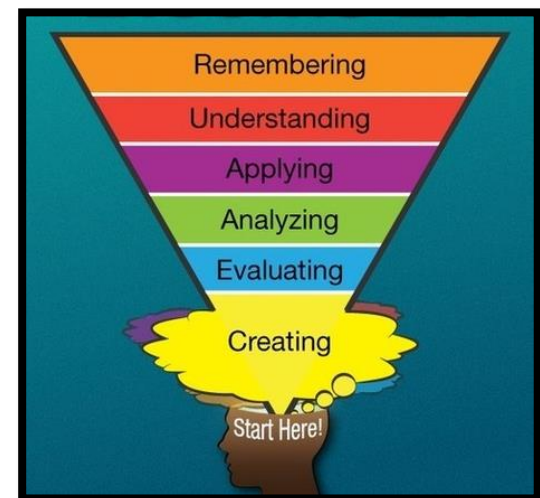
5 – Minute Professional Development!

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Strategies to Increase Complexity to a task:

1. Manipulate information, don't just echo it
2. Extend the concept to other areas
3. Integrate more than one subject or skill
4. Increase the number of variables that must be considered; incorporate more facets
5. Demonstrate higher level thinking
6. Remove scaffolding
7. Use or apply content/skills in situations not yet experienced
8. Work with advanced resources
9. Add an unexpected element to the process or product
10. Work independently
11. Reframe a topic under a new theme
12. Identify misconceptions within something



Gifted 203: Complexity and Difficulty: What is the Difference???

Complexity and Difficulty are two different mental functions but often referred to synonymously.

Complexity

...describes the THOUGHT PROCESS that the brain uses to deal with information. Bloom's Taxonomy can be used to describe various levels of complexity.

Complexity allows students to complete the same task but the problems are more complex. The workload remains similar but the cognitive challenge is increased.

Difficulty

...describes the AMOUNT OF EFFORT that the learner uses within a level of complexity to complete the objective.

Difficulty requires students to complete more tasks. The workload is increased without the cognitive challenge.

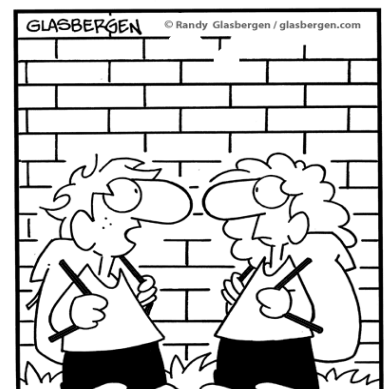
Example:

"Name the states in the Midwest Region," is at the knowledge level of complexity. Changing the task to, "Name the states in the Midwest Region and their capital cities." Is also at the knowledge level but is more difficult because it involves for effort to recall more information.

Reference:

Sousa, D. Complexity and Difficulty from How the Brain Learns. Pg. 258-260.

Schroeder-Davis, S. (2012) Gifted Services presentation. Austin, MN.



"Of course kids these days are overweight. The backpack adds 30 pounds!"