



STRONG MINDS
RISE TOGETHER

Finding Common Ground

Contextualized Instruction for Adult Learners

McLennan Community College and the Texas Success Initiative Professional Development Program



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Welcome Address

Dr. Johnette McKown, President

McLennan Community College

Seven Norms of Collaboration

✦ Promoting a spirit of inquiry

✦ Pausing

✦ Paraphrasing

✦ Probing

✦ Putting ideas on the table

✦ Paying attention to self and others

✦ Presuming positive intention

Warm-Up!

Follow the directions on the box

In your group read the directions on the box.

Wait for the facilitator to give the command to start.



Objectives

- ❖ **Identify course content areas that can be contextualized with real world application.**
- ❖ **Learn strategies for engaging students with basic skills challenges in the classroom to create contextualized activities that promote learning, retention and persistence.**
- ❖ **Explore opportunities for partnership and collaboration with college and basic skills staff to develop contextualized teaching and learning lessons and form professional learning communities.**



Mission & Vision

Review with your shoulder partners both statements.

- **What are the similarities?**
- ***Can we call this COMMON GROUND?***
- **What does this mean for our classes?**
- **Lesson planning?**
- **Students?**



Why CONTEXTUALIZATION?

According to America's Perfect Storm

Of the 19.0 million new jobs between 2004 and 2014, 9.0 million are expected to involve higher level literacy (*America's Perfect Storm: Three Forces Changing our Nation's Future*, ETS)

**How are we incorporating high level LITERACY?
Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking, Thinking**



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CONTEXTUALIZATION

You keep using that word.
I do not think it means what you think it means.



What is Contextualization?

How do you define it?



CONTEXTUALIZATION

Contextualized Teaching and Learning (CTL) is identified as a promising strategy that actively engages students and promotes improved learning and skills development. (Gillespie)

A “conception of teaching and learning that helps teachers relate subject matter content to real world situations”



What IS Contextualized Teaching & Learning?

Mazzeo (2008):

“A diverse family of instructional strategies designed to more seamlessly link the learning of foundational skills and academic or occupational content by focusing teaching and learning squarely on concrete applications in a specific context that is of interest to the student”



Contextualized Teaching and Learning: A Faculty Primer



A Review of Literature and Faculty Practices with Implications for California Community College Practitioners. Spring 2009

The Two Sides

Traditional Instruction

Predicated on the **active role** of the instructor and the **passive role** of the student.

Uses conventional learning methodologies

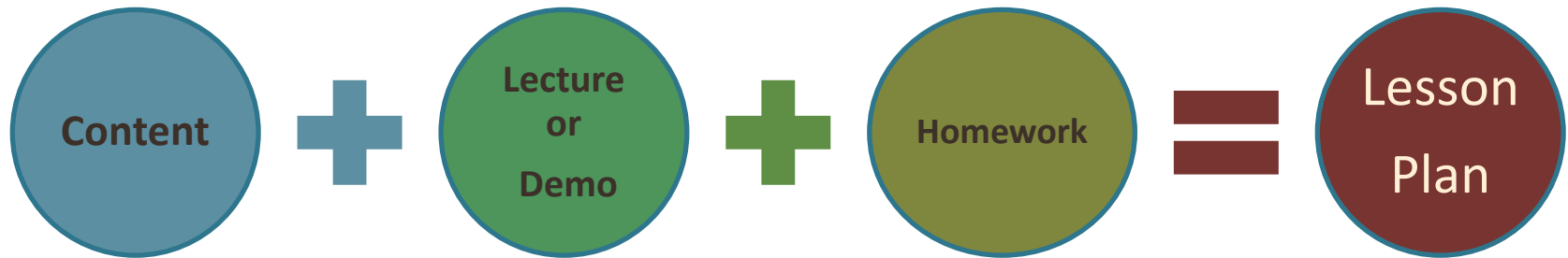
Places students in inert roles and abstract contexts

Contextualization

- Students actively engage in the use of content in real world context.
- Teacher is facilitator and help connect content and context.
- Content is made “real” by using various new methodologies.

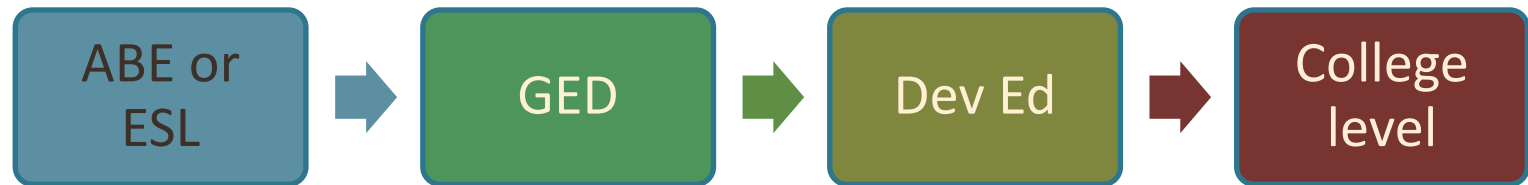


Traditional Lesson



The OLD WAY

Pathway for ABE or ESL to College

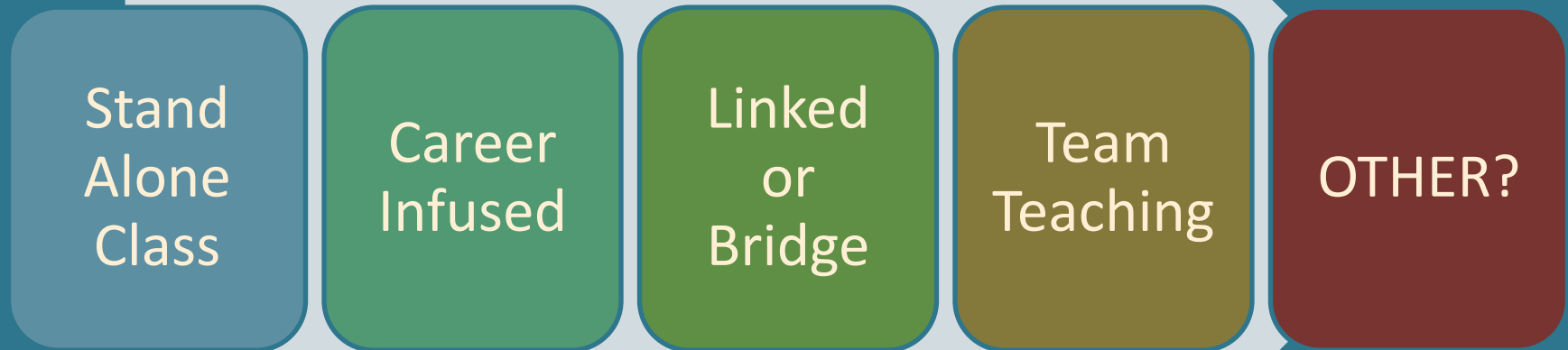




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No longer is education “First this...then that”
Our call is to go beyond the content.

Integration



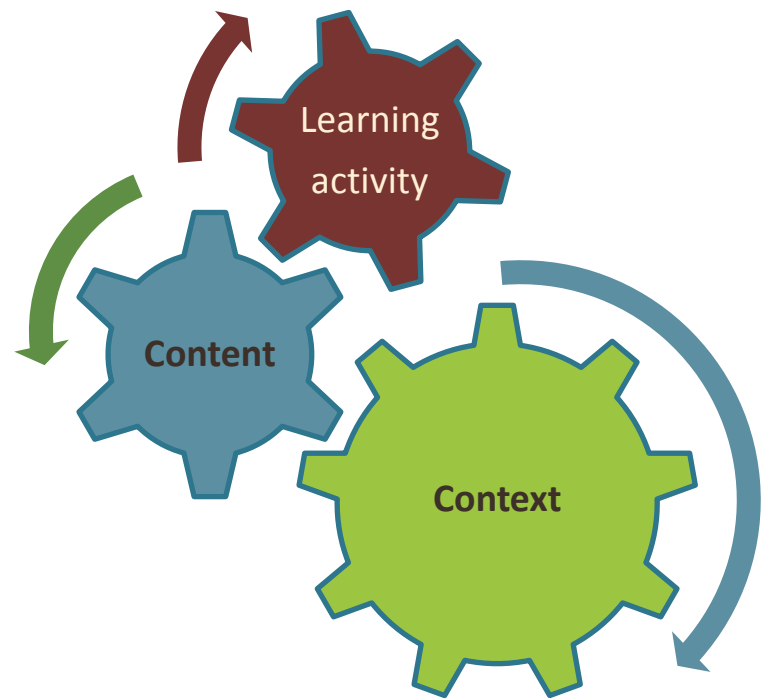
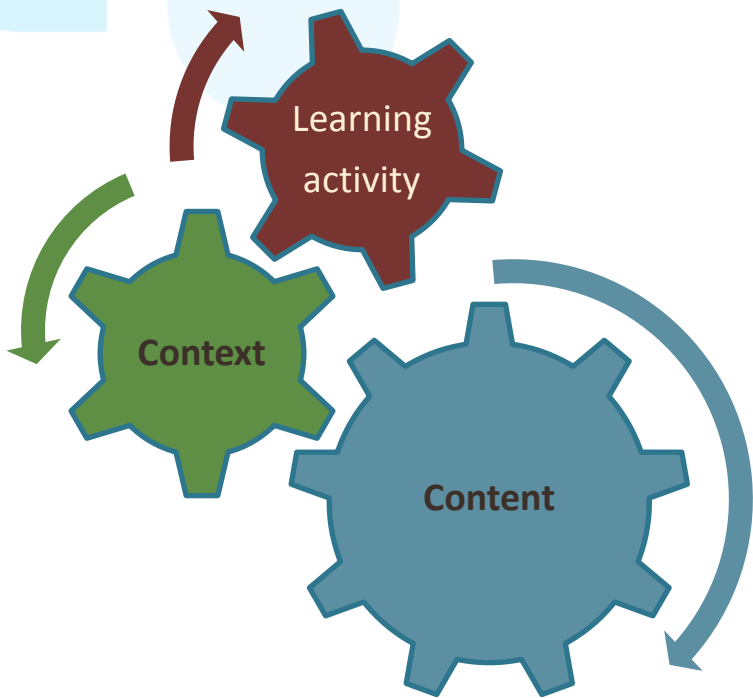
Contextualization

Think about a situation....

- Where you had a chance to learn through the active application of knowledge and skills.



- What difference did it make to what and how you learned?



The Key is Real World Application

Subject Math: Fractions, Decimals, Percents

Real World

Money

Budgeting

Shopping/Sales

Measurements

Industry

Banking

Business

Retail

Manufacturing



Let's look at WRITING
How is it used in the real world?



New Way- Contextualization

When you start with Content :

Content

+

Application

When you start with Context:

Context

+

Basic Skills

Let's look at Context- Nursing

Nursing Skills-

Reading-

Reading charts, reference materials,

Writing-

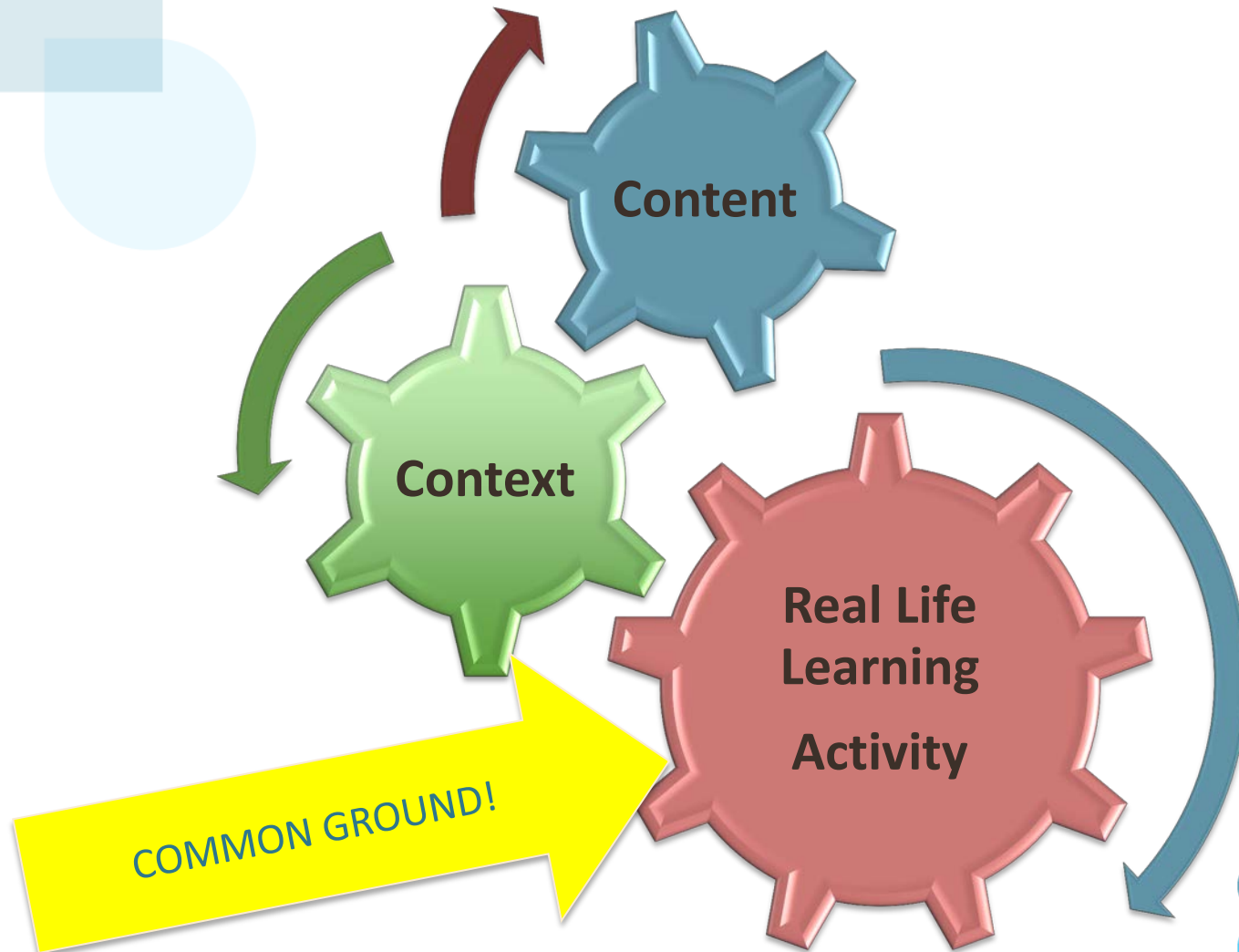
Writing reports, resumes, messages, letters

Math-

Weight, measurements, prescriptions,



Finding Common Ground!



Sample Contextualized Lesson Scenarios

With a partner,

Read and review the scenario.

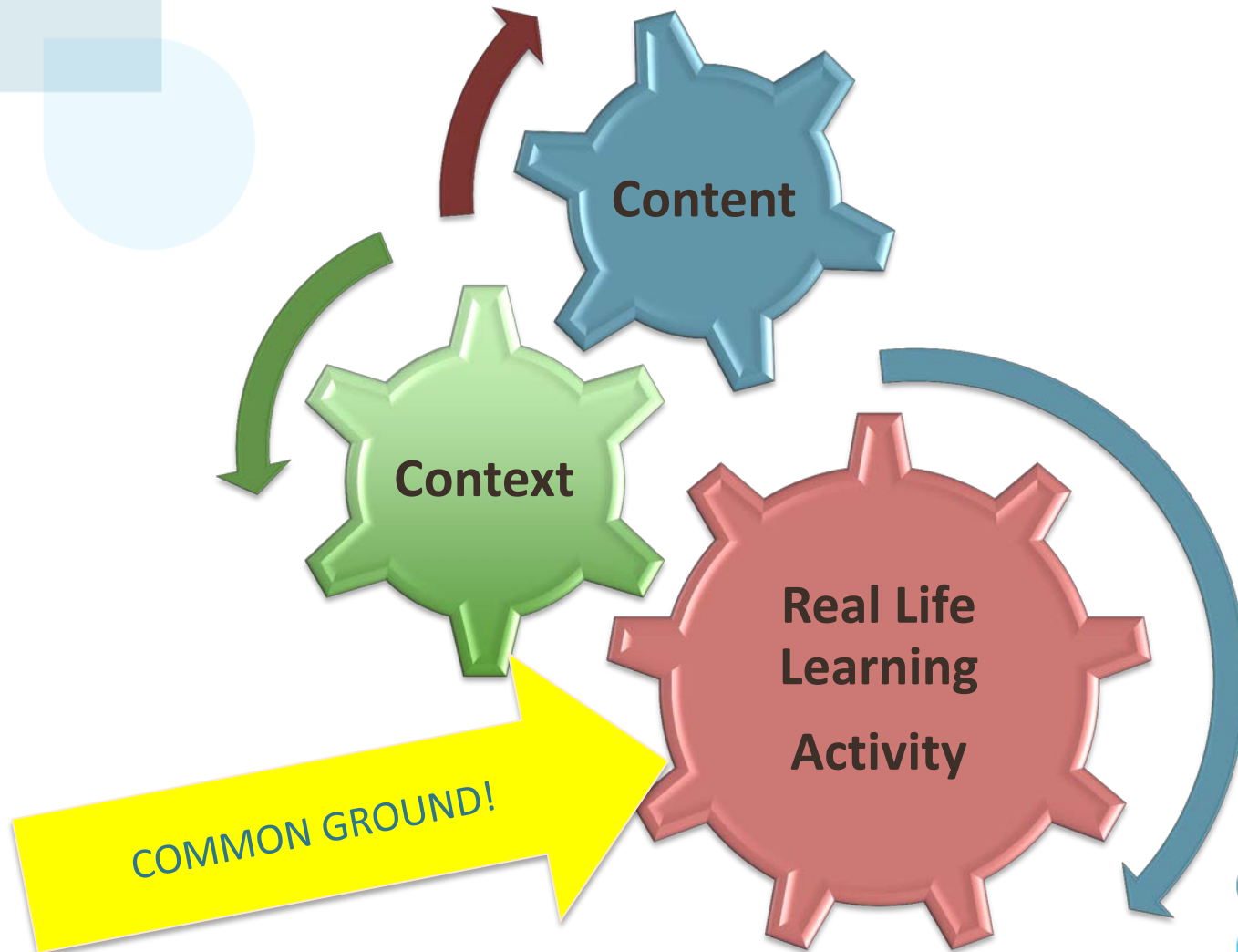
Be prepared to share!





“We do not
learn from
experience...we
learn from
reflecting on
experience.”
—John Dewey

Finding Common Ground!



Time to Collaborate



What are your thoughts on Contextualization?

- Foreseeable Challenges
- Benefits and Opportunities

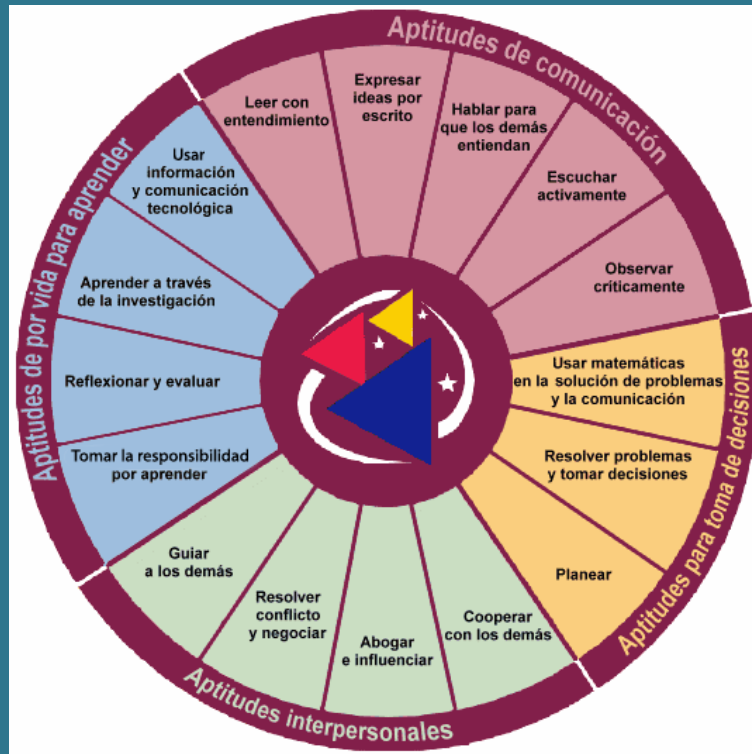
Video Watching Protocol



How Can We Contextualize the Lesson?

- What went well?
- What could be better?
- How can we apply real life/world examples?

Resources



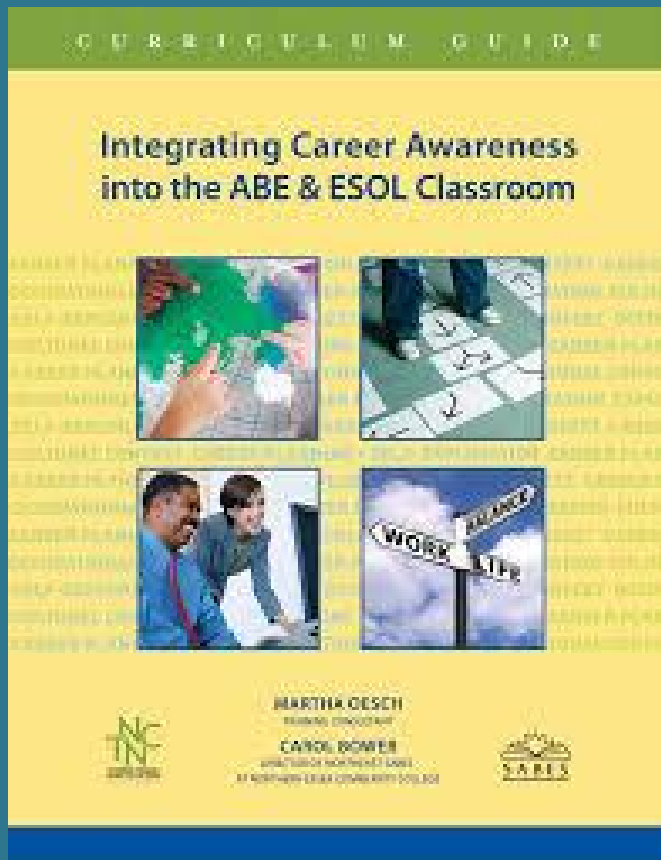
COMPETENCIES VERSUS SKILLS

SCANS

Secretary's Commission on Achieving Necessary Skills

- Formed by U.S. Department of Labor & Education.
- To determine the kinds of competencies and skills workers must have to succeed in today's workplace.
- Surveyed business, organizations, unions, and more.
- Determined that workplace competency depends on 36 skills.

Integrated Lessons



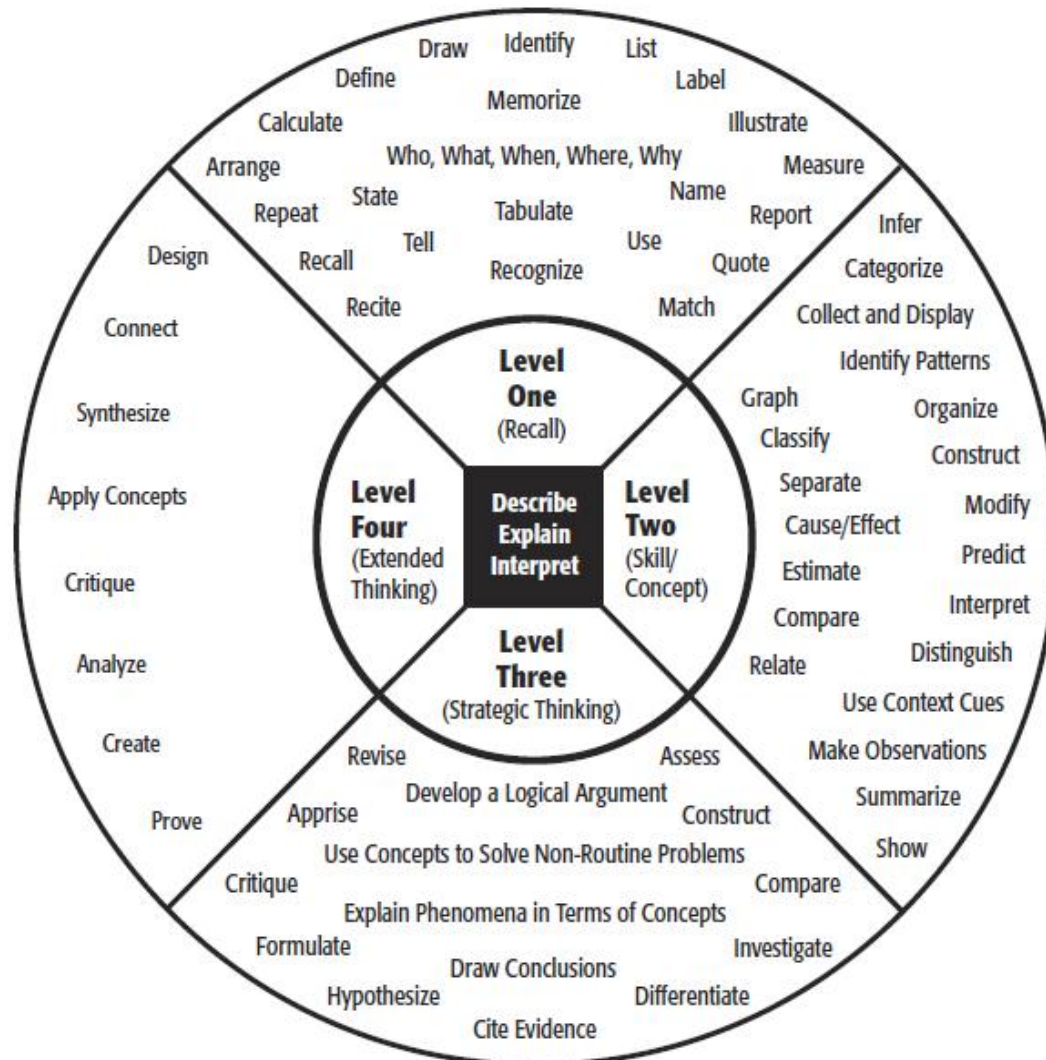
Texas Industry-Specific English as a Second Language (TISESL) Curriculum

A User's Guide



Let's review WEBB'S DOK

Depth of Knowledge (DOK) Levels



Bloom's Taxonomy vs. Webb's

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BLOOM'S AND WEBB'S?

Bloom's Taxonomy –What type of thinking (verbs) is needed to complete a task?

Webb's Depth of Knowledge –How deeply do you have to understand the content to successfully interact with it? How complex is the content?



Discuss with you neighbor...

What kinds of resources would be most helpful in supporting your work around contextualized teaching and learning?

- professional development; networking with other peer experts; exposure to innovative models; additional research & information; other

How could others support your efforts to strengthen contextualized approaches at your program/college?

- college leadership; non-CTE faculty; counseling faculty; others

How could external partners support you?




Time to Share



Next Step: Develop Contextualized Activity

- ☺ How can you make your class real?
- ☺ Who will you work with to develop lessons?
- ☺ What more do you need to implement CTL?





“It is vital that when educating our children’s brains that we do not neglect to educate their hearts.”

-His Holiness the Dalai Lama



Today's learners must be engaged differently in order to prepare them for life and work in the 21st century.





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