List of Active Verbs structured by Levels of Abstraction

These are Active Verbs which you can use to express demonstrable/measurable learning achievements. The list is based on the six subsequent levels of understanding called **"Bloom's Taxonomy"**. The higher the level, the more abstract the understanding of the matter, or achievement.

1. **Knowledge, Observation, & Recall of Information**: i.e., knowledge of dates, events, places; knowledge of major ideas; mastery of subject matter.
   Use these Active Verbs: arrange, collect, define, duplicate, examine, label, list, memorize, name (who, when, where, etc.), order, quote, recall, recite, recognize, relate, repeat, reproduce, show, state, tabulate, tell
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * Define iambic pentameter
   * State Newton's Laws of Motion
   * Identify the major Impressionist painters

2. **Comprehension - Understanding Information**: i.e., grasp meaning; translate knowledge into new context; interpret facts, compare, contrast, order, group, infer causes, predict consequences.
   Use these Active Verbs: associate, classify, contrast, describe, discuss, differentiate, discuss, distinguish, estimate, explain, express, extend, identify, indicate, interpret, list, locate, recognize, report, restate, review, select, summarize, trace, translate
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * Describe data presented in graphs....
   * Summarize the main ideas of...

3. **Application**: i.e., use information; use methods, concepts, theories in new situations; solve problems using required skills or knowledge.
   Use these Active Verbs: apply, calculate, change, choose, classify, complete, compose examples of, demonstrate, describe, discover, employ, examine, experiment, illustrate, interpret, modify, operate, practice, relate, scan, schedule, show, sketch, solve, use.
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * Describe an experiment to test the influence of light and light quality
     on the Hill reaction of photosynthesis.
   * Scan a poem for metric foot and meter scheme.
   * Use the Archimedes principle to determine the volume of an irregularly
     shaped object.

4. **Analysis**: i.e. seeing patterns, organization of parts, recognition of hidden meanings, identification of components
   Use these Active Verbs: analyze, appraise, arrange, calculate, categorize, compare, contrast, criticize, determine, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, divide, examine, experiment, explain, infer, order, question, select, separate, test.
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * List and analyze arguments for and against gun control.
   * Determine the necessary controls for an experiment.
   * Discuss the rationale and efficacy of isolationism in the global economy.

5. **Synthesis**: i.e. use old ideas to create new ones, generalize from given facts, relate knowledge from several areas, predict, draw conclusions.
   Use these Active Verbs: arrange, assemble, collect, combine, compose, construct, create, design, formulate, generalize, integrate, invent, manage, modify, organize, plan, predict, prepare, propose, rearrange, rewrite, set up, substitute.
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * Compose a logical argument on assisted suicide supported with
     well-selected evidence drawn from a variety of relevant sources.
   * Construct a helium-neon laser.

6. **Evaluation**: i.e. compare and discriminate between ideas; assess value of theories, presentations; make choices based on reasoned argument; verify value of evidence; recognize subjectivity
   Use these Active Verbs: appraise, argue, assess, challenge, choose, conclude, convince, decide, defend, discriminate, dispute, evaluate, grade, judge, measure, rank, rate, recommend, score, select, support, test, value.
   Example Learning Outcomes:
   * Assess the validity of the conclusions based on data and statistical analysis.
   * Critically analyze and evaluate a novel, supported by well-selected textual evidence and appropriate criteria for evaluation.
   * Propose defensible stock market investments based on company performance and projected value.

All information on this page is copied or adapted from http://web.cocc.edu/fat/toolkitresources/toolkit/outcomes.html accessed on December 11, 2005.

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