Cognitive Verbs in Questions
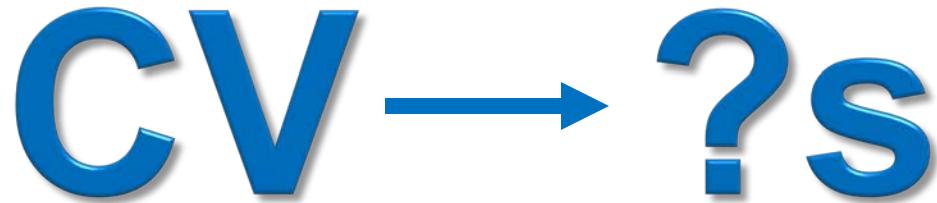
A classroom poster set.

CV → ?s

Definition
- Using cognitive verbs in questions. Instead of asking, "Who can tell me…" ask, "Who can recall…" "Who can distinguish…" "Who can predict…" "Who can Infer…"

Goals
- Use cognitive verbs in 75% of all questions asked in class and maintain high questioning frequency during instructional segments of lessons.

Benefits
- Students become familiar with important terminology.
- Teachers can monitor the levels of their questions.
- Students get a wider range of practice with thinking levels.
- Students understand more precisely what a teacher is asking.

Knowledge

- Can you remember…
- Can you list…
- Can you recognize…
- Can you recount…
- Can you restate…

To Recall

Comprehension

- Can you explain…
- Can you describe…
- Can you paraphrase…
- Can you clarify…
- Can you express…

To Understand

Application

- Can you classify…
- Can you apply…
- Can you organize…
- Can you summarize…
- Can you categorize…

To Use

Analysis

- Can you isolate…
- Can you determine…
- Can you compare…
- Can you contrast…
- Can you distinguish…

To Examine

Creative Thinking

- Can you generate…
- Can you hypothesize…
- Can you speculate…
- Can you imagine…
- Can you adapt…

To Change

Critical Thinking

- Can you judge…
- Can you decide…
- Can you infer…
- Can you conclude…
- Can you interpret…

To Justify

Cognitive Verbs in Questions

Critical Thinking	To Justify	Who can judge, decide, infer, conclude, interpret…
Creative Thinking	To Change	Who can generate, hypothesize, speculate, imagine, adapt…
Analysis	To Examine	Who can isolate, determine, compare, contrast, distinguish…
Application	To Use	Who can classify, apply, organize, summarize, categorize…
Comprehension	To Understand	Who can explain, describe, paraphrase, clarify, express…
Knowledge	To Recall	Who can remember, list, recognize, recount, restate…