

Agenda

- Announcements & updates
- Lecture & discussion
 - Teaching in an Art Museum:
Setting Goals & Generating Questions
- Group activities in galleries



Announcements

- Lockers, coat hooks, sign in
- Changes in galleries
- DAB meeting after 2/22 training
- Recruiting new docents!



Teaching in an Art Museum: Setting Goals & Generating Questions



Questioning our practice

- What are we trying to do here?
- Why do we do what we do?
- How can we become better docents?







Constructivism is a theory of learning that asserts that learners construct knowledge for themselves. Each learner individually and socially constructs meaning as he or she learns.

Visual Literacy is the ability to interpret, negotiate, and make meaning from information presented in the form of an image.



Jean Piaget (1896 – 1980)

Theory of Cognitive Development

- Learners construct mental model of the world in stages
- *Schemas* -- building blocks of knowledge
- New concepts are *assimilated* into an existing concept
- Learner's make *accommodations* for new concepts
- Implies that children are ready to learn certain skills at defined stages of development



Lev Vygotsky (1896 – 1934)

Social Development Theory

- Social interaction is a key component of learning.
- Scaffolding enables learners to perform tasks that they would not be able to do on their own.



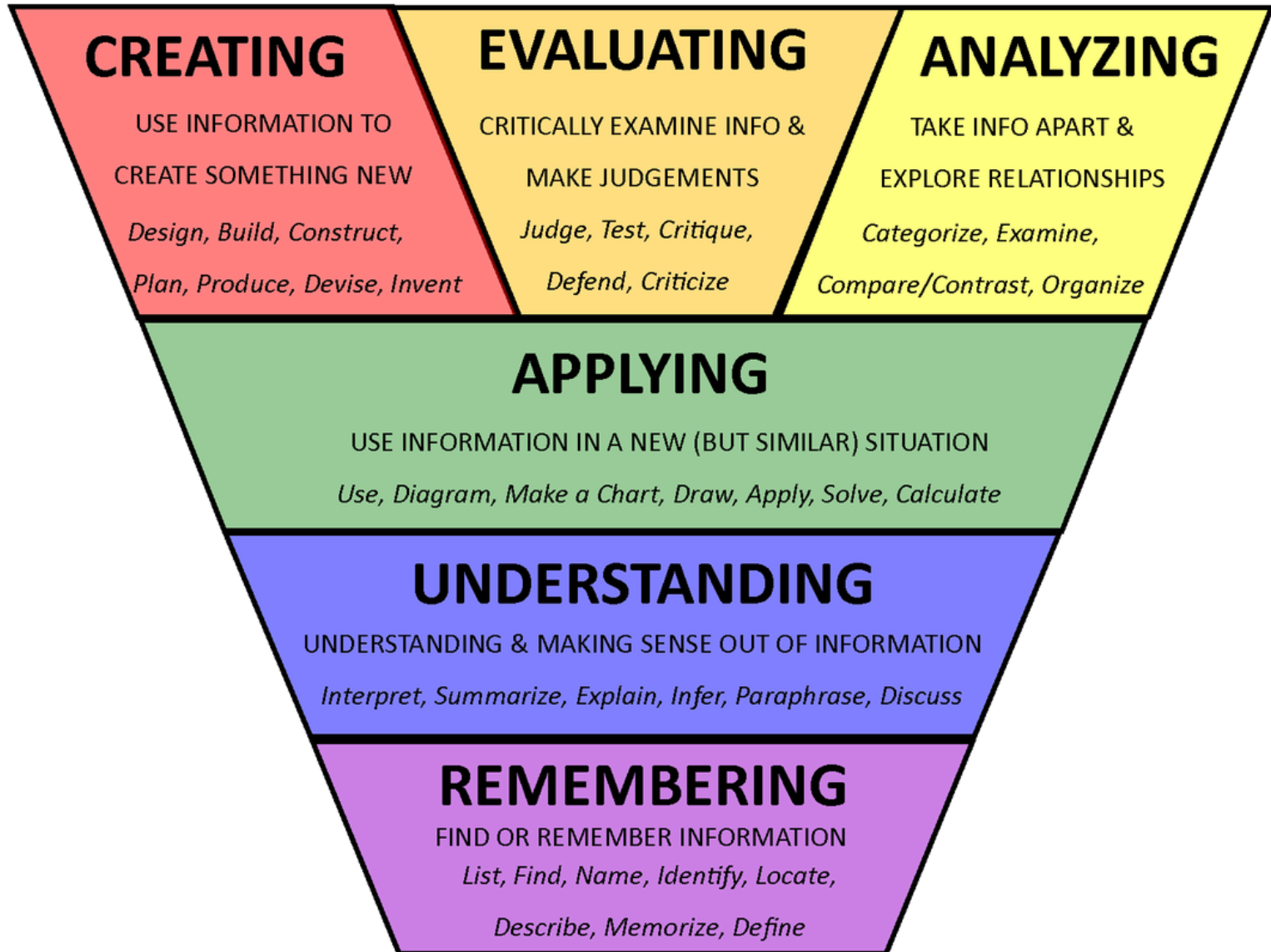
Jerome Bruner

Discovery Learning

- Emphasizes the process of learning
- Inquiry-based



BLOOM'S TAXONOMY



THE INQUIRY METHOD

The Inquiry Method is a process based on the belief that one is able to learn more when you think for yourself rather than being told facts. The Inquiry Method places emphasis on active learning and encourages personal responses, reasoning and exploration. There is no wrong answer! The Inquiry Method invites all to participate and makes visitors feel comfortable in the museum environment.

Why do we utilize this method?

- Focuses visitors' attention on objects
- Slows the pace, magnifies what is seen and amplifies what is felt
- Helps make transition from visitor to learner
- Helps viewers discover concepts for themselves
- Actively involves viewer in creative and critical thinking
- Makes participants self-aware of questions to ask when looking at art

Observation Questions

How would you describe this object to someone who has never seen it?

What is going on in this work of art?

How would you describe the colors, lines, shapes, textures of this work?

Is there anything about this object which is surprising or new to you?

How do you think this object was made?

Comparison Questions

How are these two objects alike?

How are they different?

Have you ever been to a place like this?

Does this work remind you of a place or event?