

THE LEARNERS' HIGHER ORDER THINKING

by:

Lea Jean A. Espinosa
Teacher I, Pita Elementary School

Higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) are important for learners to navigate the complexities of the modern world. These skills go beyond rote memorization and require learners to analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information. Developing HOTS is essential as it enables learners to think critically, solve problems creatively, and make informed decisions.

By helping kids develop critical and creative thinking abilities in addition to memorization, higher-order thinking promotes academic success. Higher-order thinking trains students to be original thinkers and lifelong learners who are self-directed, inquisitive, and capable of finding and using information to solve challenging problems, as opposed to instructing them to memorize material for the sake of an exam.

One effective way to cultivate HOTS is through inquiry-based learning. This approach encourages learners to ask questions, investigate topics of interest, and seek answers independently. By engaging in this process, students develop their analytical skills as they gather and evaluate evidence to support their arguments.

Another strategy for developing HOTS is through collaborative learning. Working in groups allows students to engage in discussions, share ideas, and challenge each other's thinking. This fosters higher-level cognitive processes such as analyzing different perspectives and synthesizing information from various sources.

Furthermore, integrating technology into the classroom can enhance HOTS development. Technology provides access to a wealth of information that can be analyzed

critically. Additionally, digital tools enable learners to create multimedia presentations or interactive projects that require them to think creatively. This integration not only prepares students for the demands of modern workplaces but also cultivates lifelong learning habits

Developing learners' higher order thinking skills is crucial for their success in the 21st century. Inquiry-based learning, collaborative activities, and technology integration are effective strategies for cultivating these skills. By equipping students with HOTS abilities such as critical thinking and problem-solving, educators empower them to become active participants in an increasingly complex world.

References:

Andrew Bauld (2023) Encouraging Higher Order Thinking Skills in Students.
[https://xqsuperschool.org/teaching-learning/encouraging-higher-order-thinking-](https://xqsuperschool.org/teaching-learning/encouraging-higher-order-thinking-skills-in-)

[skills-in-students/#:~:text=Rather%20than%20teaching%20students%20to,information%20to%20solve%20complex%20problems.](https://xqsuperschool.org/teaching-learning/encouraging-higher-order-thinking-skills-in-students/#:~:text=Rather%20than%20teaching%20students%20to,information%20to%20solve%20complex%20problems.)

Adele Sewell Paul Main (2023, February 27) Higher-Order Thinking Skills.
<https://www.structural-learning.com/post/higher-order-thinking-skills>

Santa Ana College (2020) Inquiry-Based Learning.
<https://sac.edu/AcademicAffairs/TracDat/Pages/Inquiry-Based-Learning-.aspx>

UConn (2019) Critical Thinking and other Higher-Order Thinking Skills
<https://cetl.uconn.edu/resources/design-your-course/teaching-and-learning-techniques/critical-thinking-and-other-higher-order-thinking-skills/>