

Dear Parent/Guardians-

I am looking forward to having your student in my class this year. I have been teaching for 17 years now, in a variety of environments, but especially enjoy PAPA. We have a creative population of students and I will try to provide many opportunities to demonstrate that in my classes. However, I do teach core content. Students will need to pass my classes to graduate to high school or from high school, and part of that is passing the state mandated End of Course Exam, or EoC. My students have a very high rate of success, but that means there is a serious commitment to academics in my classes. I will focus on pushing students to the higher ends of Bloom Taxonomy and Webb's Depth of Knowledge. I have included to visuals here, they may not translate well onto the copy, but they can be seen on my teacher link at paparts.org.

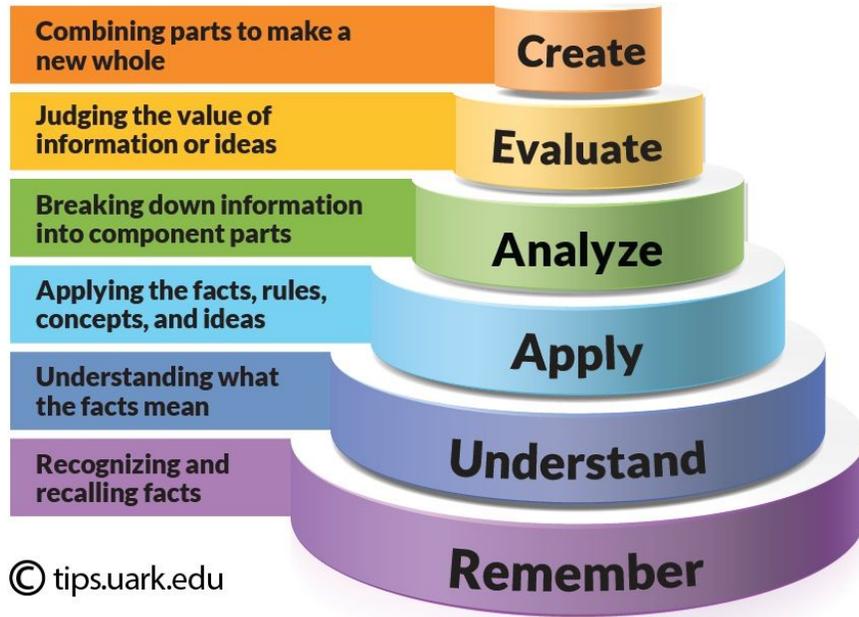
In all my classes there are many strategies used. I aim to include guided lectures and presentations, note-taking skills, readings from multiple sources, projects (individual and small group), research projects/papers, posters, maps, presentations, textbook readings/questions, primary and secondary source analyzations, novels, articles, timelines, videos, maps, charts/graphs, discussions and internet skills to recall, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, explain, predict and create understandings of concepts/ideas, cause and effects, perspectives and outcomes.

Attendance and participation are a must if a student expects to pass the EoC, and my class. I provide many opportunities to meet with success, and offer the students a lot of freedom within their assignments to accommodate a wide array of interests and expressions. That is what makes the class enjoyable. I strive to ensure the students the right to express their ideas or opinions in a safe and comfortable environment. In order to create a safe environment students must feel emotionally and physically safe. As such, students must always recognize in others the right to expression free from hostility. They must, to achieve this goal, always, without exception, treat those around them with dignity and respect. However, ideas are meant to be challenged. Therefore, in my class, students are safe, ideas are not.

The students at PAPA have always proven to be great intellects, willing and able to rise to academic challenges. This year will be no different, and I'm excited to start the 2019-2020 school year.

Sincerely,

Jason Ocken



Webb's Depth of Knowledge

DOK Level 1

(Recall)

Verbs: arrange, calculate, define, draw, identify, list, label, illustrate, match, memorize, recognize, tell, ...

Focus: on specific facts, definitions, details, or procedures

Note: there's one correct answer, and a combination of Level 1s does not make it a Level 2

DOK Level 2

(Skill / Concept)

Verbs: categorize, cause/effect, classify, compare, distinguish, estimate, graph, interpret, modify, predict, relate, show, summarize, ...

Focus: on applying skills and concepts • explaining how or why

Note: there's one correct answer

DOK Level 3

(Strategic Thinking)

Verbs: assess, cite evidence, compare, conclude, construct, critique, develop logical argument, differentiate, formulate, hypothesize, investigate, revise, ...

Focus: on reasoning and planning in order to respond • complex and abstract thinking required • defending reasoning or conclusions

Note: multiple answers or approaches

DOK Level 4

(Extended Thinking)

Verbs: apply concepts, analyze, connect, create, critique, design, prove, ...

Focus: on complex reasoning, planning, and thinking • make real-world applications in new situations

Note: has multiple answers or approaches • often requires extended periods of time with multiple steps