

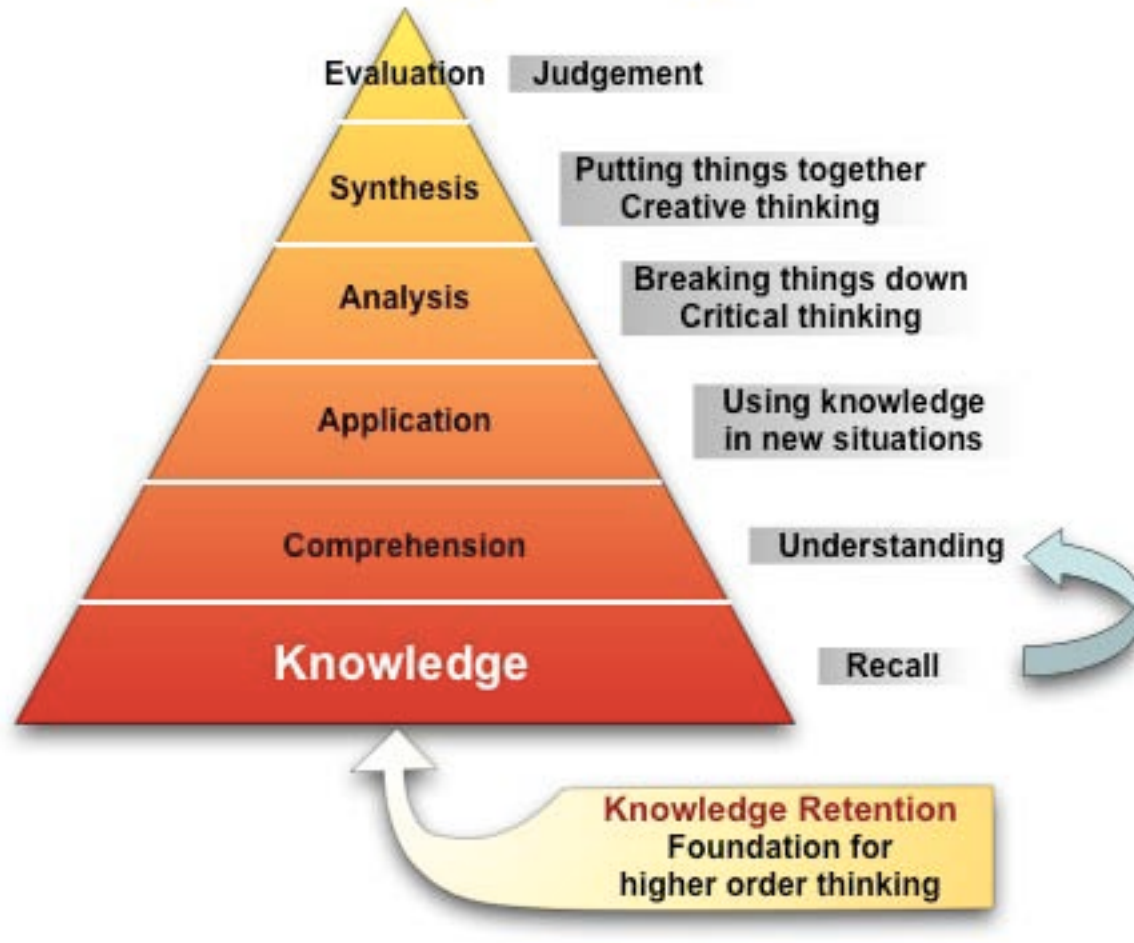
So You Think You're Not Teaching Critical Thinking?

Incorporating Critical Thinking
Through Writing

Beth Padden
English/World Languages
epadden@jjc.edu
x2590

- How can I teach critical thinking when so much of my class is rote memorization?
- Even if I can include critical thinking, how can I assess it?

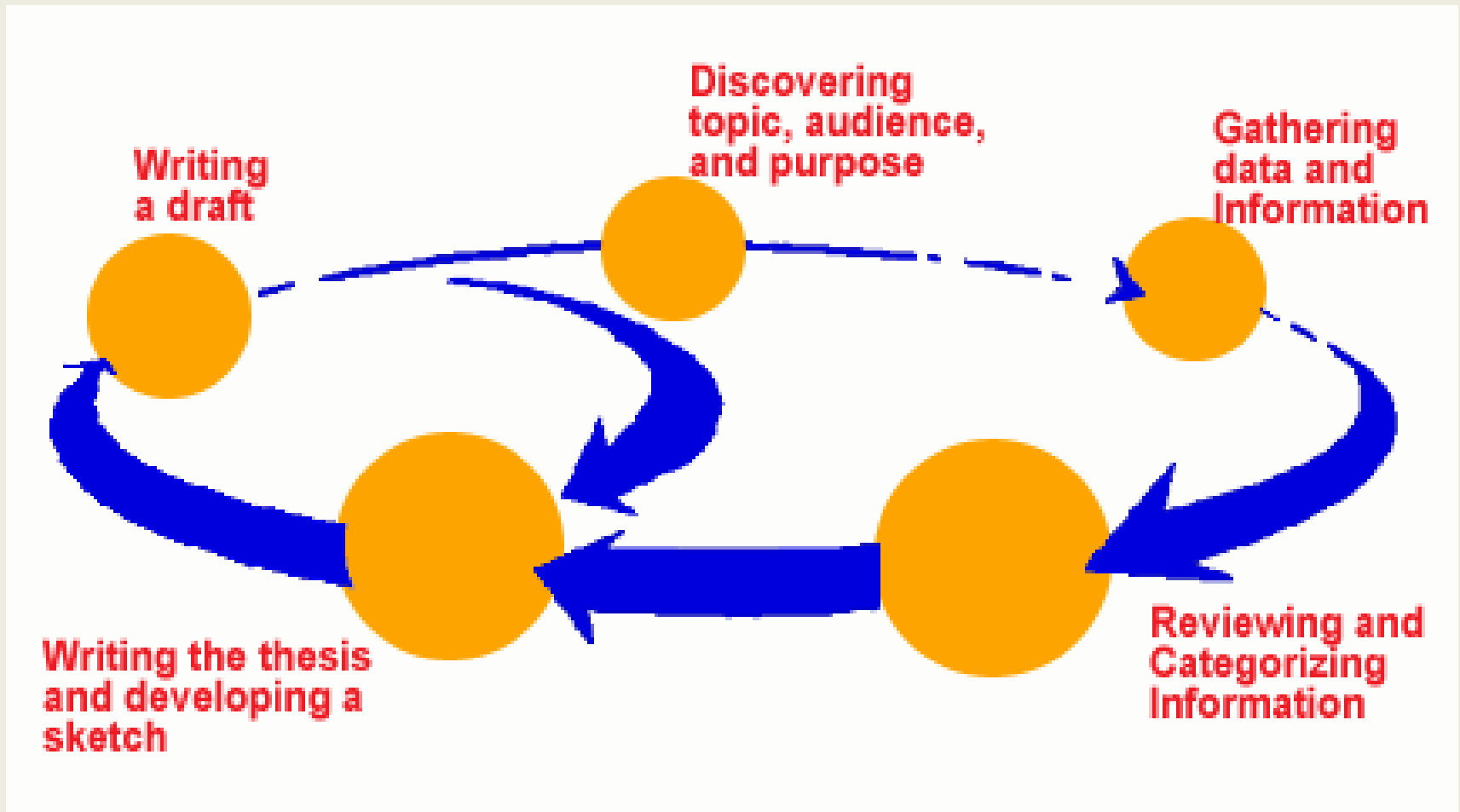
Bloom's Taxonomy for Thinking



The National Standards for Foreign Language Learning



Writing As a Process



Activate Prior Knowledge and Get Students Thinking About the Topic

- Students have begun memorizing vocabulary.
- Visual representations of basic vocabulary are presented while students brainstorm by shouting out the words they see or other related words.
 - Ikea Spain: <http://www.ikea.com/es/es/>
- Cultural differences between Spanish and American Houses are discussed.

Applying the Lexical Field

- Now that students feel comfortable with basic vocabulary, they use that vocabulary to talk about real houses for sale in Spain.
 - <http://www.inmobiliaria.com/>
- Students prepare answers to guiding questions that they will then present to the class.
 - Why do you like the house? Why do you not like the house?, etc.

Reviewing Information

- As students present their answers to the questions about the Spanish real estate, classmates ask questions for clarification.
- Discussion of differences between Spanish and American houses continues.
- After presentation students are asked if they would like to live in any of the houses presented.

Creating a Plan

- What kind of house would you like to live in?
- In groups students develop their dream houses.
 - guiding questions, visual designs, etc.

Writing a Draft

- Students write drafts of an expository essay describing their dream houses in Spanish.
- About 100 words.
- “Micro-essay” follows same format as formal expository essay.

Peer Editing

- Students read one another's papers to give advice on revisions.
 - Students must understand the writing of other students.
 - Students must be able to give input on necessary changes.

The Final Draft

- Process, not product.
- No longer just rote memorization of vocabulary and grammar rules.