

## SUGGESTED VERBS FOR FORMULATING EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

(Reprinted from *Continuing Medical Education, A Primer*, Second Edition)

The following verbs have been found to be effective in formulating educational objectives:

1) Those that communicate *knowledge*:

### **Information:**

cite	draw	name	recite	repeat	tabulate	update
count	identify	point	recognize	select	tell	write
define	indicate	quote	record	state	trace	
describe	list	read	relate	summarize		

### **Comprehension:**

assess	compute	differentiate	explain	interpret	restate
associate	contrast	discuss	express	locate	review
classify	demonstrate	distinguish	extrapolate	predict	translate
compare	describe	experiment	interpolate	report	

### **Application:**

apply	develop	interpret	practice	restate	solve
calculate	employ	locate	predict	review	translate
choose	examine	match	prescribe	schedule	treat
complete	illustrate	operate	relate	select	use
demonstrate	interpolate	order	report	sketch	utilize

### **Analysis:**

analyze	criticize	diagram	infer	question
appraise	debate	differentiate	inspect	separate
contract	deduce	distinguish	inventory	summarize
contrast	detect	experiment	measure	

### **Synthesis:**

arrange	compose	detect	integrate	prepare	specify
assemble	construct	document	manage	prescribe	validate
collect	create	formulate	organize	produce	
combine	design	generalize	plan	propose	

### **Evaluation:**

appraise	critique	evaluate	rank	score
assess	decide	grade	rate	select
choose	determine	judge	recommend	test
compare	estimate	measure	revise	

2) Those that impart *skills*:

demonstrate	hold	massage	pass	visualize
diagnose	integrate	measure	percuss	write
diagram	internalize	operate	project	
empathize	listen	palpate	record	

3) Those that convey *attitudes*:

acquire	exemplify	plan	reflect	transfer
consider	modify	realize	revise	

These verbs are often used but are open to many interpretations and are better avoided:

appreciate	have faith in	learn	believe	know	understand
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