

TOWARD A TAXONOMY OF CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITIES: WRITING, RESEARCHING, DESIGNING, AND PRESENTING

PRESENTER: MIKE PALMQUIST

Abstract: This talk will address the use of four general types of critical thinking activities in our courses. It will begin with a general discussion of how we might create an all-purpose taxonomy, then shift into an in-depth exploration of how we might use the following activities to support critical thinking in our courses: writing across the curriculum (WAC), student research projects, student design projects, and student presentations. During the WAC section of the talk, I'll focus on writing to learn, writing to engage, and writing to communicate (more commonly referred to as writing in the disciplines), offering examples of WAC activities and assignments that can be used inside and outside of the classroom. I'll map those activities to Bloom's taxonomy, showing how they can be used in a variety of introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses. Then I'll turn then to discussions of how we might use research, design, and presentation activities and assignments to engage our students in critical thinking. I'll seek audience engagement through discussion and requests for examples or ideas from their own courses.