



List of Verbs for Formulating Educational Objectives

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

1. Those that communicate knowledge:

Information:

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

Comprehension:

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

Application:

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

Analysis:

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

Synthesis:

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

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	write	diagram	internalize	operate
project	empathize	palpate	record	listen	

3. Those that convey attitudes:

acquire	exemplify	plan	reflect	transfer	consider
modify	realize	revise			

These words are better avoided:

Those that are often used but are open to many interpretations:

<i>appreciate</i>	<i>have faith in</i>	<i>know</i>	<i>learn</i>	<i>understand</i>	<i>believe</i>
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From: Rosof AB. Stating objectives, in Rosof AB Felch WC (eds): Continuing medical education: a primer, Westport, Conn.: Praeger; 1992:52-59