



The Universal Thinking Framework

The UTF can be used to enrich learning experiences for students of all ages. It helps teaching professionals guide their students thinking in productive and meaningful ways. It is essentially an organised taxonomy of the mental activities involved in learning, describing in detail the cognitive processes by which thinkers encounter and use knowledge. Integrate the framework into your curriculum and design accessible learning pathways that stretch and challenge your whole class.

How do I get started? Initiate and engage

Extract Identify parts from the whole.	Identify List the information to be used.
Categorise Sort items into groups.	Eliminate Erase non-relevant information.

How should I organise my ideas? Connecting and relating

Connect Create causal links between items.	Match Identify pairs that go together.
Rank Order by an agreed value.	Sequence Order by time or logic.
Arrange Join together related items.	Compare Identify similarities and differences.

How do I know this? Reinforcing knowledge

Validate Provide evidence.	Exemplify Provide examples.
Explain Communicate the essentials.	Verify Check accuracy.
Amplify Provide more features or information.	

How can I communicate my understanding? Integrating language

Verbs Doing words.	Adverbs Modify a verb.	Adjectives Describing words.	Conjunctions Join one part of text to another.	Prepositions Where or when something happens.	Target Vocabulary Incorporate new terminology.
------------------------------	----------------------------------	--	--	---	--

What can I do with my new knowledge and understanding? Using knowledge purposefully

New Perspective View from a different point of view.	Complete Fill in the gaps or make a correction.	Combine Merge items into one new entity.	Elaborate Talk through your ideas.	Generalise Make a widely applicable statement.	Integrate Incorporate others ideas or new information.	Imagine Create something new.
Hypothesise What would happen if...?	Judge Form an opinion or considered decision.	Designate Give a section a name or term.	Summarise Brief statement of main points.	Generate Questions Create further lines of enquiry.	Infer Educated guess from reasoning.	