

Paddy Eger

Educating America

News on Schools

A Newsletter Supporting k-8 Classrooms Volunteerism

Fall, 2017

Volume 17:3



This quarter's newsletter is focused on

Critical Thinking

Critical Thinking Skills are deftly organized in Bloom's Taxonomy. Both the old and new paradigms create a hierarchy that invites students to progress through various levels that help them become more actively engaged in their learning.

Bloom's new organization separates the skills by the following categories: Remembering, Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating, and Creating. Each level challenges students to think, relate, judge, and manipulate their learning to make connections far beyond recall.



We may simplify the six Critical Thinking Skills into four sequential topics for young students. These encapsulate Bloom's categories as noted in parenthesis with (1) the easiest and (4) the most challenging strategies.

(1) **Investigation** (Remembering, Understanding, Applying)

Students build up their basic knowledge, collect and synthesize ideas, and ask questions to develop meaning.

(2) **Digging Deep** (Understanding, Applying, Analyzing)

Students question what they read and discover through hand-on activities.

(3) **Flexible Thinking** (Applying, Analyzing, Evaluating)

Students use what they've learned and begin to think for themselves

(4) **Collaboration** (Analyzing, Evaluating, Creating)

Students take what they've discovered in the first three steps and share their ideas with others. They uncover how their ideas stack up/mesh with others and discover what changes they might make to improve their processes.

One way to foster Critical Thinking Skills is by allowing students to be creative and to inquire about topics that interest them. You will find numerous free downloadable [Thinking Skills](#) materials available on my [website](#).

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Quotes to Ponder

The one real goal of education is to leave a person asking questions.

~**Max Beerhold** - British Critic, Essayist, & Caricaturist

Out of the questions of students come most of the creative ideas and discoveries.

~**Ellen Langer**



My name is Paddy Eger. I'm a retired teacher, a volunteer trainer, a classroom volunteer, a blogger and a writer across several genre. When I'm not writing YA novels, my focus is on encouraging adults to volunteer in classrooms

One of the greatest pleasures of my week is stepping into classrooms to support teachers and students. I'm one of those retired educators who can't stay away. I enjoy helping students with reading and writing and watching the ah-ha's light up their faces.

As you read through this newsletter I hope you will share your ideas and comments with me through my email Paddy@PaddyEger.com

You are invited to share this information with other interested persons. All I ask is that you credit me as your source and include my website address. —Thanks.

Find me on:   



and



Below are two charts: Guidelines for Critical Thinking During Discussions and Using Bloom's for Reading and Math. Search Critical Thinking and Bloom's Taxonomy online to locate numerous samples; one will certainly suit your needs.

As information and technology triples and quadruples, Critical Thinking Skills become an important life-long focus. Sign up to be notified for my next online newsletter which will continue this topic. Critical Thinking Part Two: Processes and Activities

Visit Paddy's [Educating America blog](#) to receive news and updates.

Guidelines for Critical Thinking During Discussions



1. Stay on topic

What is your main point/ your specific example/idea/concern?

2. Be prepared to share supporting evidence for your ideas.

What is your supporting evidence?

Why do you believe that is true?

3. Elaborate on your ideas to show how you can apply them to the topic.

Share specific details about your idea.

What makes your idea valid?

4. Summarize your idea when asked.

Restate your idea in a different way if people are confused or believe contradictory information.

5. Evaluate and adjust your ideas as needed.

What evidence best supports your belief? How does your idea fit in with other classmates' ideas?



Using Blooms for Reading and Math



Skill	READING	Shared Skills	Shared Key Words	MATH
Remembering (lower level skill)	reread, locate data, describe <i>who, what, when, where, why, how</i>	define terms identify facts recall information	recognize subject terminology	memorize facts
Understanding (lower level skill)	retell in own words summarize	explain ideas classify/compare	share examples, explain in own words	explain thinking
Applying (lower level skill)	predict outcomes. illustrate/map out	demonstrate use, if..., then..., organize	locate pertinent details to solve problem & decide	select, label, memorize
Analyzing (higher level skill)	dramatize debate ideas	determine how parts relate to each other	appropriate outcome	recite facts, definitions use to prove point
Evaluating (higher level skill)	form own ideas	judge information. establish criteria	discover alternate ways to explain	solve problems, draw/illustrate
Creating (higher level skill)	rate stories justify conclusions	generate ideas, plan/ design construct product	rank, select best evaluation	justify thinking

Resources

Samples of Printed Resource Topics and Materials

How to Teach Thinking Skills within the Common Core by James A. Bellanca, Robin J. Fogarty and Brian M. Pete

Logic Countdown by Prufrock Press

Educating America: 101 Strategies for Adult Assistants in K-8 Classrooms p.54-59

Analogies for Critical Thinking by Teacher Created Resources

Critical Thinking workbooks from Houghton-Mifflin, Rainbow Resource, Teacher Created Resources, Carson Della Rosa Thrift Books, etc. (available online)

Samples of Online Resources:

Edutopia.org | EyeonEducation.com | U.S. Dept. of Education website

10 Fun Web Apps. Games for Teaching Critical Thinking at emergingedtech.com

One Way to Look at It (Q&A)

Dear Paddy,

I don't have time to rewrite my questions to my students into higher level questions. Is there an easy fix?

signed *Too Busy Teaching*

Dear To Busy Teaching,

There is no need to rewrite *everything*. Instead try one or all of these ideas as you become more comfortable with using higher level thinking skill questioning techniques.

- 1. Ask why questions** to elicit analyzing. (Why did the author use winter in the story?)
- 2. Ask how questions** during activities that involve a process. (How can we separate the rocks from the gravel and the pebbles?)
- 3. Ask students to explain their thinking** and give examples to support their ideas or conclusions.
- 4. Ask students to evaluate** their decision, processes, outcomes.

Good Luck!

**I want to hear from you!**

Tell me about your adult assistant achievements, successes and challenges.

I welcome your feedback, ideas for future newsletter content and contact information for anyone you would like to receive this free resource.

I'm available for interviews, speaking, training seminars and guest blogging.

Write me at Paddy@PaddyEger.com or call 425-420-5161 for more information.



Small Group Tool Pouch

Need Tools for Small Groups?

Tired of kids in small groups needing a sharp pencil? a paper clip? scissors? Want a way to keep them focused and seated?

Each pouch can be fastened into a 3-ring notebook or kept loose in the zip closed pouch. It's easy to grab up and take outside the classroom as well.

Kits are available for \$6.50 USD each and includes tax and shipping within the U.S. Supplies are limited. Receive delivery within 14 business days.

FINAL NOTES

Check out the Critical Thinking Skill Builder materials on my website.

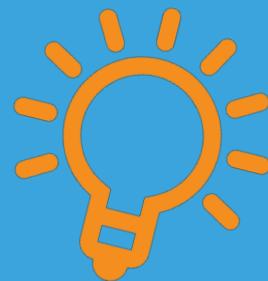
Looking for Ideas to Train Para Educators or Classroom Volunteers?

Training classroom support takes more time than most educators have available.

Book a training session today!!

- * Sessions are tailor-made to meet your needs.
- * Presentations are hands-on and interactive.
- * Training sessions range from 45 minutes to 3 hours.

Want details? Contact me, Paddy Eger, at 425-420-5161 (west coast business hours). Together we'll create a plan that works for you anytime of the year.

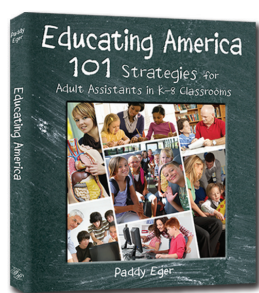


Educating America materials provide quick and easy ideas!

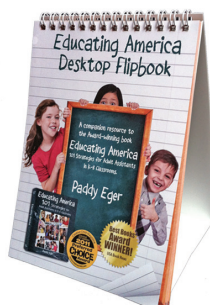
They include the award-winning *Educating America: 101 Strategies for Adults in K-8 Classrooms*, a desktop flipbook and a workbook. Take a look inside each when you visit www.paddyeger.com and select the Educating America portion of the website.

The book, flipbook, and workbook are available from your favorite bookstores, Tendril Press, and online sources for ebooks. At this time, the student reminder cards are available through my website www.paddyeger.com, at Teacher's Notebook and Teachers Pay Teachers or by contacting me directly at 425-420-5161.

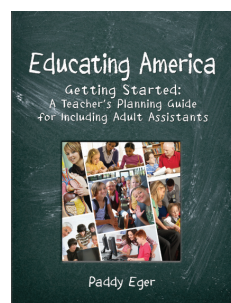
Check out my materials online as seen on www.TeachersPayTeachers.com and on www.TeachersNotebook.com. Both resources also provide parent ideas as well as information for educators.



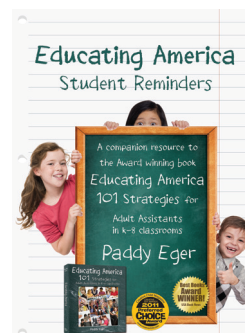
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101 Strategies
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5. I will offer you one of a variety of printed materials to meet your specific needs. Each offering is valued at \$6.50 and includes free shipping.