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### **How to Write High Quality Educational Objectives**

Educational objectives are short, clear statements about what a learner should be able to do upon successful completion of your course. Educational objectives and outcomes provide the framework for an educational activity, help guide learning, and are a tool for measuring and assessing knowledge.

Please review the list of “suggested verbs to use in each level of thinking skills”. Please take note of the column headings, which reflect the six cognitive levels of learning. The lowest level is represented on the left (Knowledge) and the highest level is represented on the right (Evaluation). Once you review it, please continue reading this page.

In writing educational objectives for your course, you are going to describe the information, skill or behavior that the learner should achieve after taking your course.

How to create educational objectives:

1. You will need to create 5 educational objectives for a one hour course. Submit them in a Microsoft Word document along with your course.
2. The educational objectives should tell a learner what skills they will learn from your course. Make them interesting and accurate as the educational objectives are what site users review when selecting courses.
3. The first word of each educational objective should be the verb itself. Please do not put “to” in front of the verb. Do not number or bullet them. A simple list of them is all we need.
4. Use verbs from a variety of levels of thinking levels (knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation). Try not to repeat the use of a verb.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Your educational objectives should include keywords so that site users will find your course when they use our keyword course search option.

Let’s take a look at a couple of examples of educational objectives:

Educational Objective: Understand the Melzack Wall Gate Theory of Pain

This is a poorly written educational objective as it uses a verb that is listed as best avoided on the suggested verb list. Why is the objective poor and best avoided? Because it does not describe a skill that the learner can now perform.

Educational Objective: Summarize the Melzack Wall Gate Theory of Pain

This is acceptable and it uses a verb from a higher level of thinking skills.

Educational Objective: Outline various types of cognitive behavioral therapies that are commonly used to treat learning disabilities/Behavioral disorders

Excellent objective. It tells the user what they can do after they take the course.

List of Verbs for Formulating Educational Objectives

<b>SUGGESTED VERBS TO USE IN EACH LEVEL OF THINKING SKILLS</b>					
<b>Knowledge</b>	<b>Comprehension</b>	<b>Application</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Synthesis</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>
Count	Assess	Aid	Analyze	Categorize	Appraise
Cite	Associate	Apply	Arrange	Combine	Assess
Define	Classify	Calculate	Breakdown	Compile	Compare
Describe	Compare	Change	Combine	Compose	Conclude
Draw	Contrast	Classify	Design	Create	Contrast
Identify	Convert	Complete	Detect	Derive	Criticize
Indicate	Defend	Compute	Develop	Design	Critique
Label	Discuss	Demonstrate	Diagram	Devise	Determine
List	Distinguish	Discover	Differentiate	Explain	Grade
Match	Estimate	Divide	Discriminate	Generate	Interpret
Name	Explain	Examine	Illustrate	Group	Judge
Outline	Extend	Graph	Infer	Integrate	Justify
Point	Extrapolate	Interpolate	Outline	Modify	Measure
Quote	Generalize	Interpret	Point Out	Order	Rank
Read	Give Examples	Manipulate	Relate	Organize	Rate
Recall	Infer	Modify	Select	Plan	Support
Recite	Paraphrase	Operate	Separate	Prescribe	Test
Recognize	Predict	Prepare	Sub Divide	Propose	
Record	Summarize	Produce	Utilize	Rearrange	
Relate		Show		Reconstruct	
Repeat		Solve		Relate	
Reproduce		Subtract		Reorganize	
Select		Translate		Revise	
State		Use		Rewrite	
Summarize				Summarize	
Tabulate				Transform	
Tell				Specify	
Trace					
Update					
Write					

<b>These Verbs are Impart Skill</b>	<b>These Verbs are Better Avoided</b>
Demonstrate	Appreciate
Diagnose	Know
Diagram	Understand
Empathize	Learn
Hold	Believe
Integrate	
Internalize	
Measure	
Palpate	
Write	
