

The third learning framework is one that is used to help students consider the presentation of their work. The following questions constitute that framework and help students to reflect on the quality of their work:

Clarity

Could you elaborate or illustrate further?

Accuracy

How could you check/verify that?

Precision

Could you be more specific or give more details?

Relevance

How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question?

Depth

What are some of the complexities/factors of this question?

Breadth

Do we need to look at this from another perspective?

Logic

Does what you say follow from the evidence?

Significance

Is this the central idea on which to focus?

Excerpt from *Universal Intellectual Standards*, by Linda Elder and Richard Paul



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FRAMEWORK FOR LEARNING

**Northside
Christian School**



The Right Direction

Northside Christian School has developed a program that is based on a general theory of learning and is implemented through the use of three specific frameworks.

This intentional approach provides the opportunity for students to become more self-directed in their learning and is commensurate with many of the strategies used to teach to various learning styles.

High school teachers have received training in methods related to implementing this approach to learning. As teachers plan their lessons, they consider the following general theory of learning:

- ◆ *Provide flexibility in the learning environment of the students so that the natural processes of the brain will be activated, supported, enhanced, and maintained.*
- ◆ *Provide for a reality-related, belief-system based curriculum that uses questions.*
- ◆ *Provide for high-input learning in non-verbal as well as verbal forms.*
- ◆ *Provide for the reduction of fear in students and for the encouragement of*

risk-taking.

- ◆ *Provide opportunities for student talking and communication.*
- ◆ *Provide frequent feedback on student direction.*

The first learning framework that is used is specific to the discipline being studied: English, algebra, biology, music, etc.

The second is a learning framework that considers the thinking levels, from lower to higher, that are listed to the right. As teachers plan their lessons, students assignments, and tests, they are determining the levels of thinking that will be required and will be communicating that information to the students.

This makes expectations of student work much clearer to the students and increases the possibility for their success. The understanding of this framework by the students is extremely helpful to them in taking their college qualifying exams and in being successful at the college level.

In today's society, many children are driven by the desire to be entertained and amusement becomes a focus. The Greek word for "a" means "not" and the Greek for "muse" is "to think." Northside's intentional strategies are designed to help students move away from this "non thinking" culture.

KNOWLEDGE

...Information learned is recalled.

COMPREHENSION

...Information learned is explained and/or illustrated.

APPLICATION

...Information learned is used to solve problems in new situations.

ANALYSIS

...Elements of a composition are identified and examined.

SYNTHESIS

...The relationships between various elements within a composition are identified.

EVALUATION

...The values assigned to relationships within a composition are expressed.