

## HW 4.5 Developing Students' Thinking Skills

Designing Learning Activities That Teach Content and Language And Develop Thinking Skills



Learning Outcome	Pedagogical Intent	Student Position
Employ a variety of strategies, materials and resources in standards-based ESL and content instruction..  <b>Assessment: 50 pts.</b>  <b>Due: Session 5</b>	Teachers can use their knowledge of teaching second language learners and their knowledge of content and their development of literacy to design and enact activities that promote thinking skills	Students have developed knowledge of how to promote ELLs language and literacy development in their regular classroom and content knowledge and how to design activity centers. They are positioned to learn about how to promote thinking skills through learning activities.

Instructions:

1. In this homework, we ask you to read and consider short readings about developing and promoting thinking skills in your learning activities. One of the literacy skills is "thinking" and part of becoming a lifelong learner is being a good thinker. Take notes on the things you think are relevant to your teaching and to designing your MSDLA for this course.
2. Begin by reading [the list of 8 skills](#) that students need to develop to improve their thinking. After reading the article, take notes about how you might design activities that will help develop one or more of these skills.
3. Skim the Blog post by [Lavonne Botcher](#) on developing critical thinking skills. As you read, take notes about ideas you find compelling or interesting and then consider how you might adjust your learning activities.
4. This web site <https://equitypress.org/-gbx> provides specific strategies for teachers to use in promoting critical thinking. As you skim, take notes about ideas you find compelling or interesting and then consider how you might adjust your learning activities.
5. This link to a Colorin Colorado article <https://equitypress.org/-gdV> provides information about using a visualization strategy in your lessons. As you skim, take notes about ideas you find compelling or interesting and then consider how you might adjust your learning activities.
6. The purpose of this activity is to support you in increasing the ways your activities promote and expand thinking as well as develop content knowledge and language and literacy development.

\* **WARNING**—we have reviewed the content of these readings; but they come from websites sponsored by educational and business consulting firms. The ideas are congruent with our own research of cognition but you should be the critical thinkers and determine their usefulness for you.



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