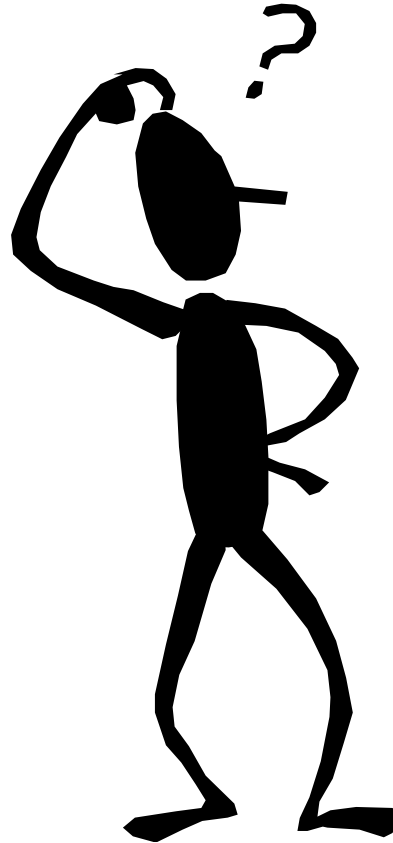


Costa's Levels of Thinking



3 Levels of Question

- What is the definition of inquiry?
- Give an example of how inquiry is used in the AVID classroom.
- Hypothesize how inquiry could be used in the world of work.

- Turn to an elbow partner and discuss how these three questions differ.

What is Inquiry?



- Inquiry is “a seeking for truth, information, or knowledge—seeking information by questioning.”
- Being able to recognize different levels of thinking is beneficial for all students in many areas of learning.

Overview of the Levels of Thinking:

- Level 1 - Readers can point to one correct answer right in the text.
- Level 2 - Readers infer answers from what the text implicitly states, finding answers in several places in the text.
- Level 3 - Readers think beyond what the text states. Answers are based on reader's prior knowledge/experience and will vary.

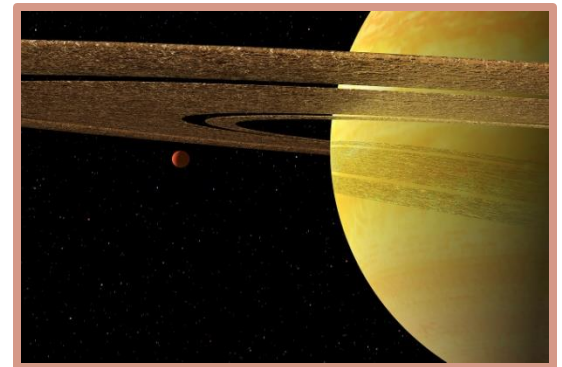
Level 1:

- **Level One** thinking causes students to recall information. This level of question causes students to input the data into short-term memory, but if they don't use it in some meaningful way, they may soon forget.
- Ex: Name the planets of the Solar System.



Level 2:

- **Level Two** thinking enables students to process information. They expect students to make sense of information they have gathered and retrieved from long- and short-term memory.
- Ex: Compare and contrast the planets of Jupiter and Saturn.



Level 3:

- **Level Three** thinking requires students to go beyond the concepts or principles they have learned and to use these in novel or hypothetical situations.
- Ex: Use what you know about Earth to analyze why other planets are uninhabitable.



The Three-Story House

2.5: Inquiry

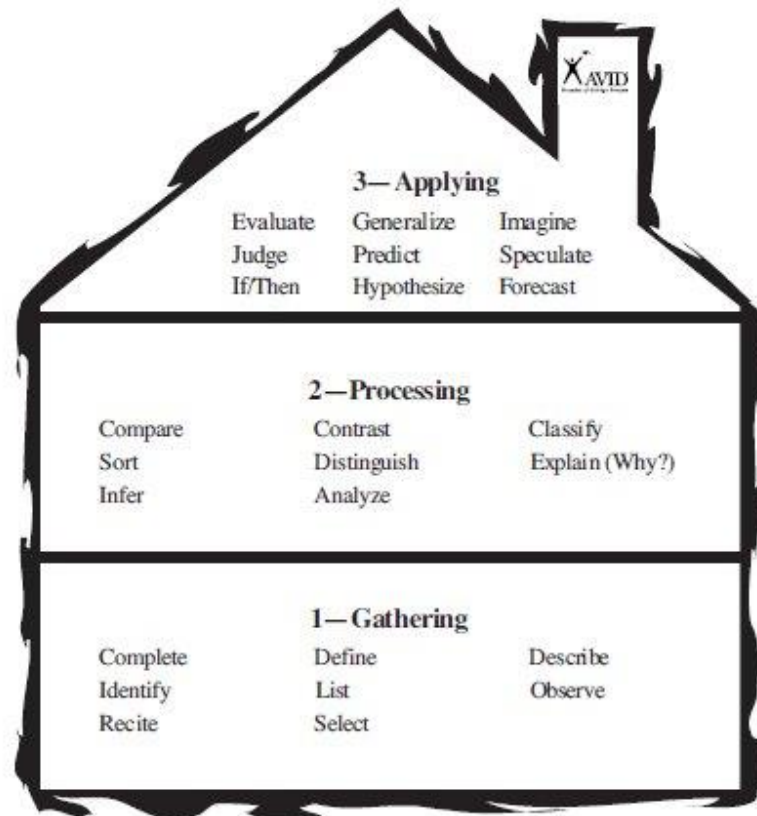
Tutor/Student Handout 2.5.1 (2 of 2)

The Three-Story House

Level 1 (the lowest level) requires one to gather information.

Level 2 (the middle level) requires one to process the information.

Level 3 (the highest level) requires one to apply the information.



It's Like a Three-Story House

2.5: Inquiry

Tutor/Student Handout 2.5.1 (1 of 2)



Three-Story House (Costa's Levels of Questioning)



To better understand the content being presented in their core subject areas, it is essential for students to learn to think critically and to ask higher levels of questions. By asking higher levels of questions, students deepen their knowledge and create connections to the material being presented, which in turn prepares them for the inquiry that occurs in tutorials. Students need to be familiar with Costa's (and/or Bloom's) levels of questioning to assist them in formulating and identifying higher levels of questions.

Directions: Read the poem below and review the "Three House Story" on the next page. Both set the stage for Costa's Levels of Questioning.

One- Two- Three-Story Intellect Poem

There are one-story intellects,
two-story intellects,
and three-story intellects with skylights

All fact collectors who have
no aim beyond their facts
are one-story people.

Two-story people compare, reason,
generalize, using the labor of
fact collectors as their own.

Three-story people idealize,
imagine, predict—their best illumination
comes through the skylight.

Adapted from a quotation by Oliver Wendell Holmes

Reflection:

- Respond to the following questions:
 - How many levels are there in Costa's Levels of Thinking?
 - What is the difference between Level 1 thinking and Level 3 thinking?
 - Which level of thinker do you currently relate to most? Which level of thinker do you think you must become to be a successful student?