CRITICAL THINKING

Fostering Skills in a Virtual Space

November 6, 2025

Hi there! I’m Nikki!

Introduction

I’ve lived in

- North Carolina, Nevada, and Illinois

in the United States

- Japan, China, and currently Hanoi, Vietnam

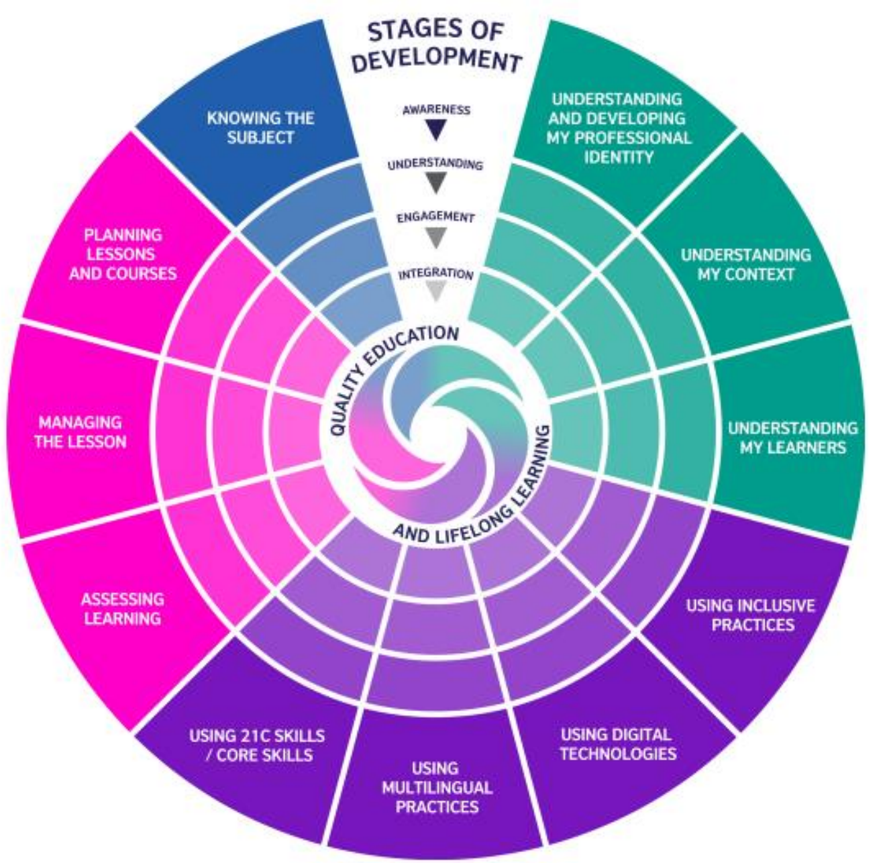
- Teaching since 2007
- Educational Consultant, Career Counselor, and Academic Coach

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
The World is Your Classroom

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CPD FRAMEWORK

Figure 1: The framework



Using 21st century skills / core skills

This professional practice is about the skills that learners and teachers need in order to develop agency, navigate a fast-changing and connected world and to participate actively and critically in learning and in life.

Using 21st century skills / core skills

Developing my own awareness of and proficiency in:

Learning skills

- critical thinking and problem-solving
- communication
- collaboration and interpersonal skills
- creativity and innovation
- learning to learn and metacognition.

Life skills

- active citizenship around social, political, environmental or economic issues and responsibilities
- cultural awareness
- intercultural competence
- developing and building on student agency, autonomy and leadership
- developing life-long learning skills to support employability.

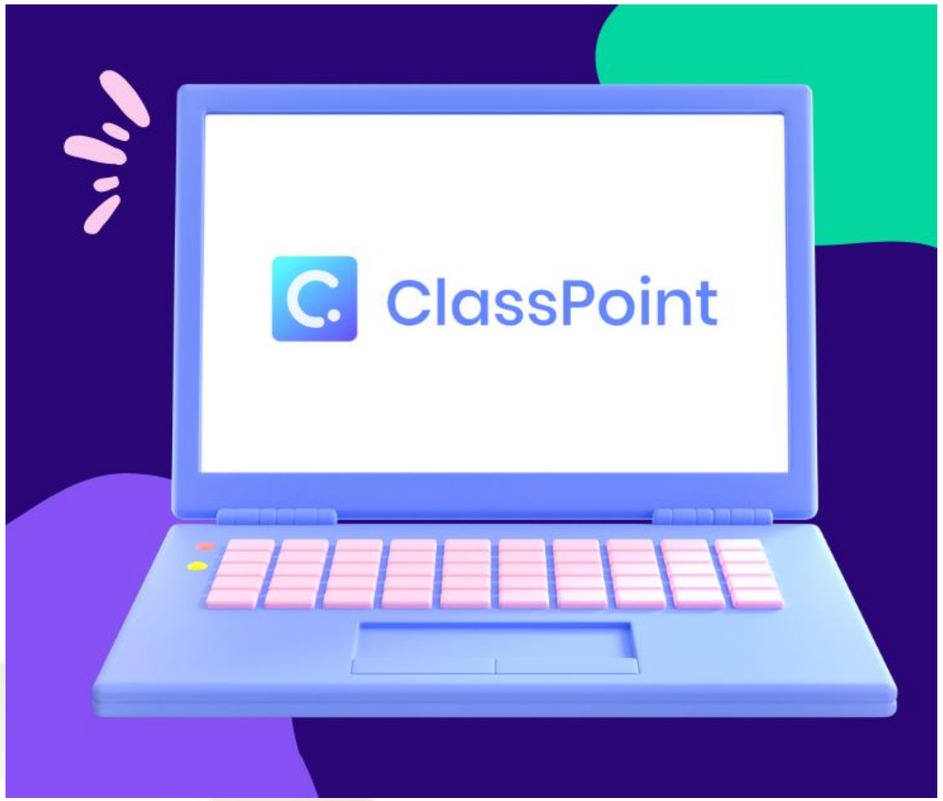
Literacy skills

- digital literacy and critical digital literacy (including information literacy)
- emotional literacy (e.g. self-awareness, maintaining well-being, resilience and motivation)
- media literacy (e.g. receiving information, understanding and summarising it and then communicating it to others).

Selecting appropriate methodologies, activities and resources for introducing, developing and evaluating my learners' skills in these areas.

Demonstrating the value and importance of 21st century skills / core skills for my learners (e.g. modelling my own development of literacy skills as part of my life-long learning).

Reflecting on my strengths and weaknesses in relation to my own proficiency in 21st century skills / core skills and my ability to develop my learners' proficiency in these areas.



Your participation matters!

On your phone or tablet, go to **classpoint.app**

Enter the code at the top of the screen.

This will allow you to participate in various activities as we go and to see the slides.

CORE SKILLS IN 2025

What do you think are the top three skills employers desire, according to a 2025 World Economics Forum report?

Word Cloud

Word Cloud submissions

CORE SKILLS IN 2025

https://www.weforum.org/publications/the-future-of-jobs-report-2025/in-full/3-skills-outlook/

World Economic Forum 2025 Report:

1. Analytical thinking
2. Resilience, flexibility, agility
3. Leadership and social influence
4. Creative thinking
5. Motivation/self-awareness

Analytical thinking: understanding and dissecting information (involves logical reasoning, deductive and inductive reasoning, and problem-solving techniques)

Critical thinking: evaluating and judging it (involves skepticism, inquiry, and reflection)

WHY FOCUS ON CRITICAL THINKING?

Capital Scholars Honors Program, Springfield, Illinois

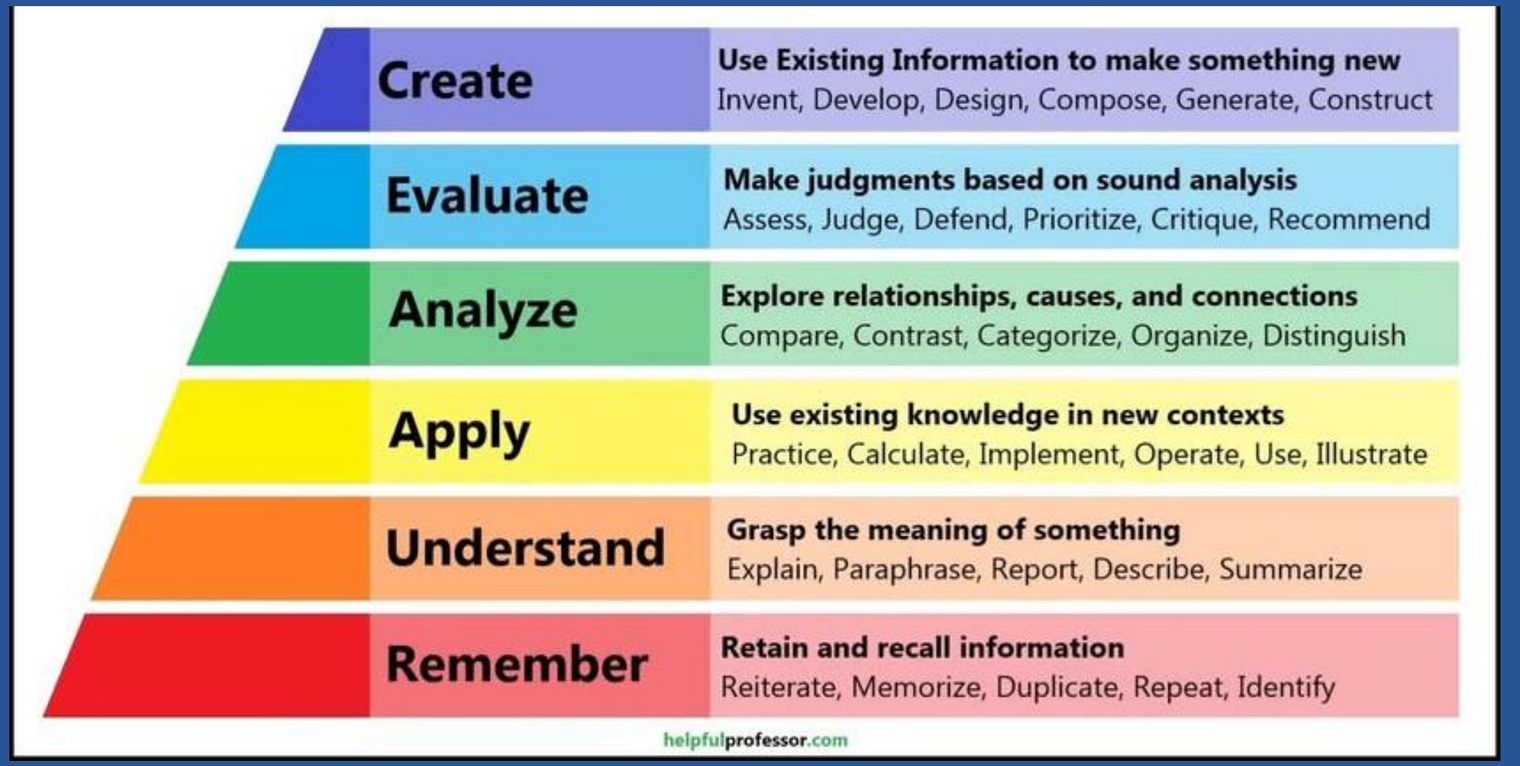
Who Am I? (Identity)
How Do You Know? (Epistemology)
What is Good? (Morals and Ethics)
What is Power? (Control, Cooperation, and Self-Determination)

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

Are you familiar with this framework?

1. Yes
2. No

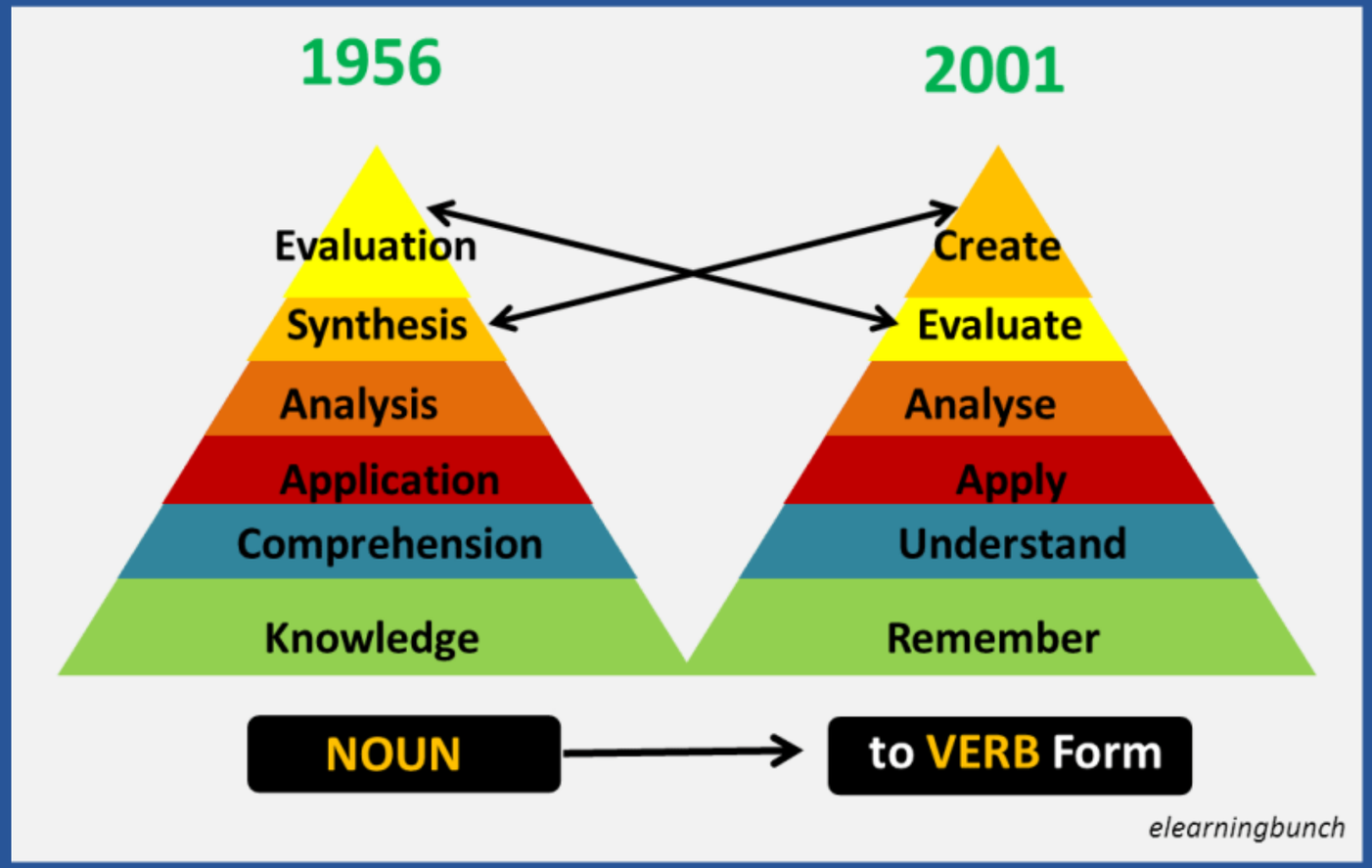
What changes were made in 2001 to the original 1956 version of the framework?

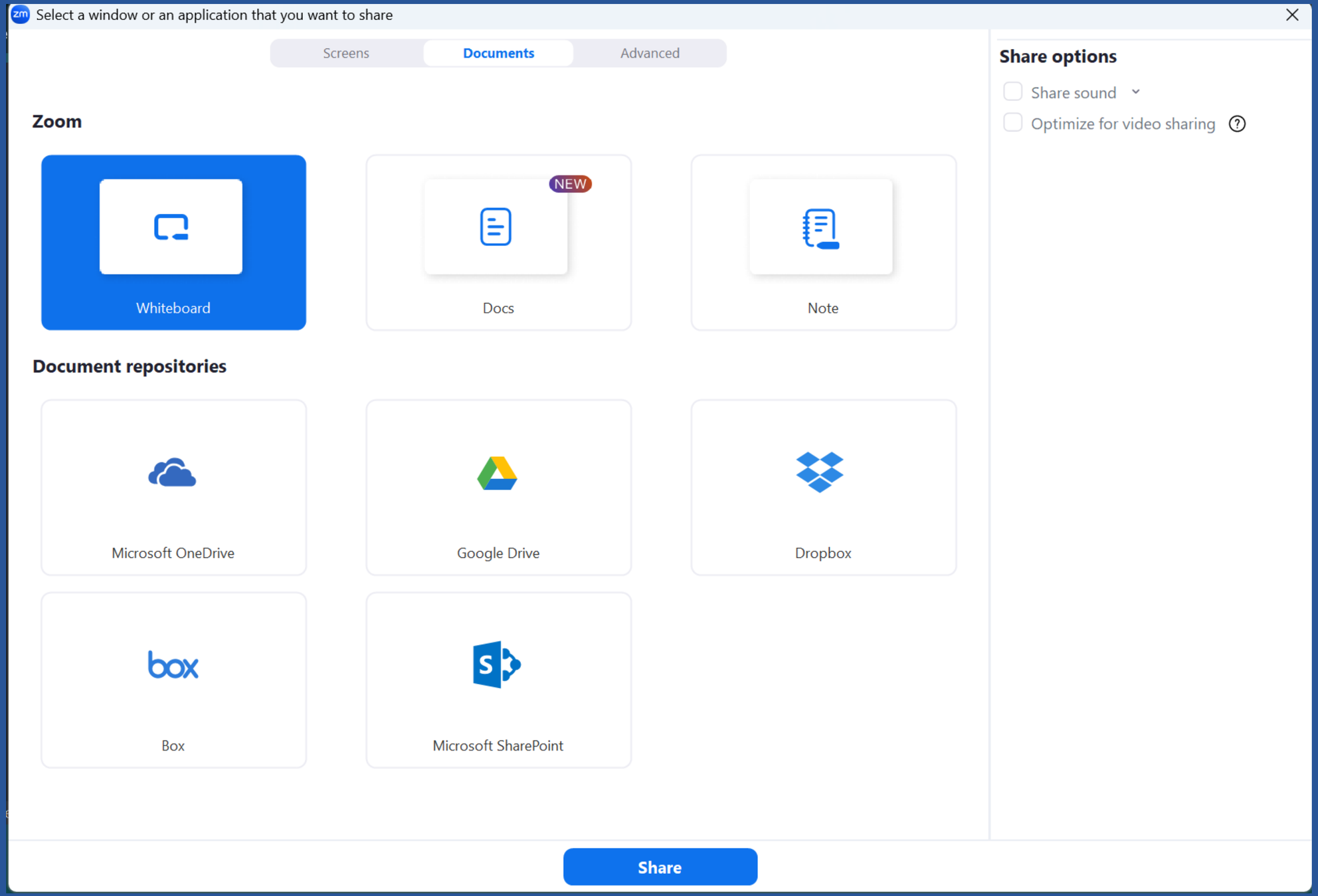


Multiple Choice

BLOOM'S TAXONOMY

Creates a scaffold for designing tasks that progress from lower-order to higher-order thinking




Select a window or an application that you want to share
Screens
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NEW
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Document repositories
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Dropbox
Box
Microsoft SharePoint
Share options
Share sound
Optimize for video sharing
Share

Whiteboards

Search

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New

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- Brainstorming
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- Workshop
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- Education
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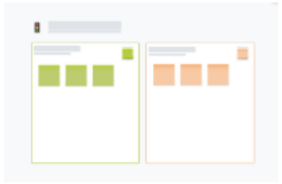
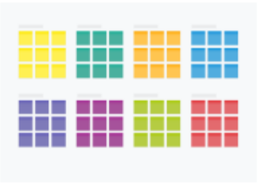
- Presentation



Quick Retrospe... ...

Kanban Board ...



Sticky Notes ...

Brainwriting Br... ...

Flowchart ...

Daily Standup ...

Concept Map ...

Bulls Eye Diagr... ...

About Me ...

Whiteboards | Templates

New

Sketch ...

The Lost Letter ...

Guess the Word ...

Guess the Word ...

Fly Swatter ...

Lesson Reflecti... ...

Time Capsule ...

Family Tree ...

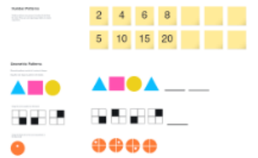
Syllabus and L... ...

Whiteboards | Templates

New

Lesson Plan ...

Free Body Diag... ...



Patterns ...

Ten Frames ...

The Elements o... ...

Concept Map ...

Venn Diagram ...

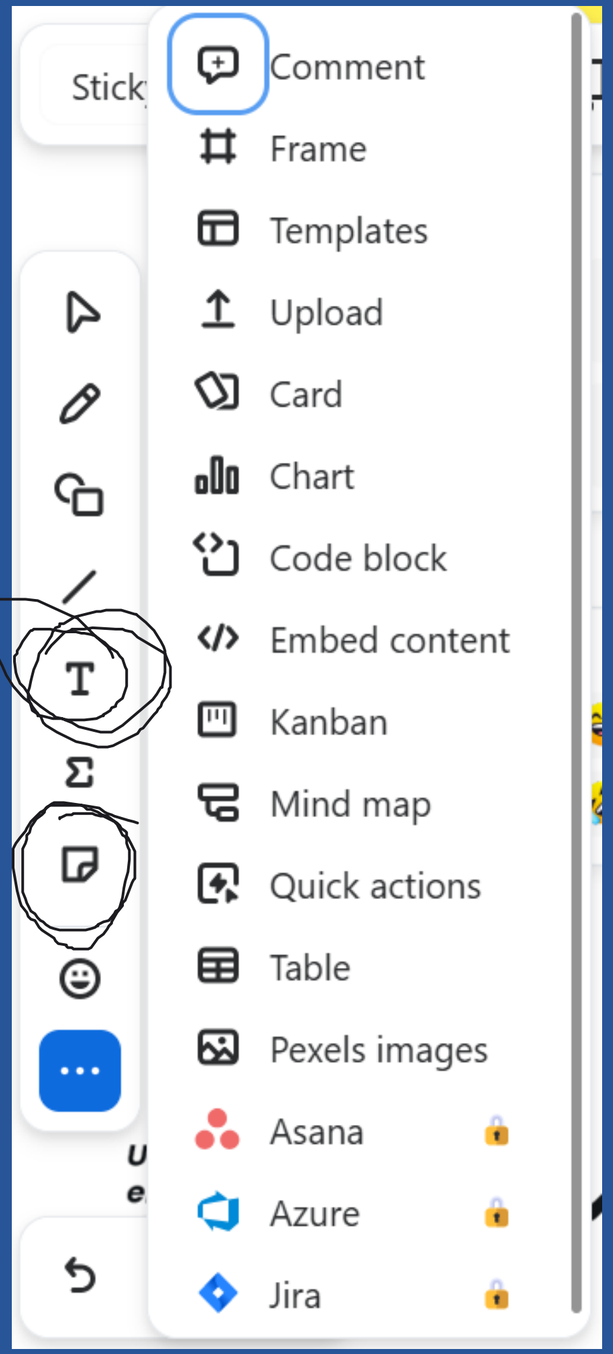
XY Plot ...

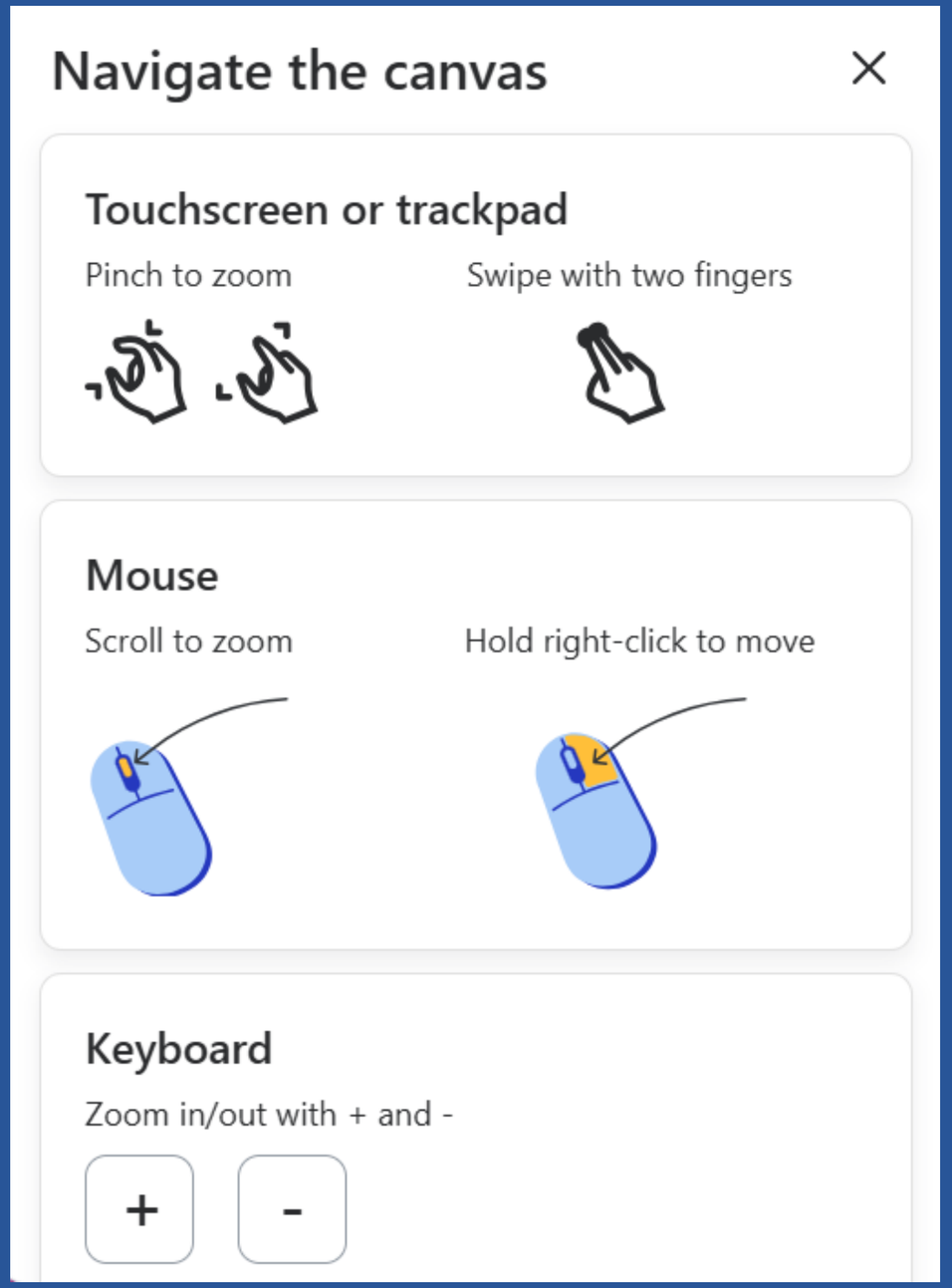
Know Wonder ... ...

Initial Engagement

Devote time to explaining BOTH the tool and the reasoning.

Doing so shows students how to analyze information, understand the "why" behind concepts/approaches, and engage in logical thought.





01 AI BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Key question: What benefits and challenges do you see emerging from the increased usage of AI amongst your students?

In your breakout group, make a list of up to nine ideas.

You will have seven minutes. Please briefly introduce yourself first.

Be prepared to add your items to the sticky notes and to discuss them upon your return to the main room!

STRATEGIES

- Open-ended questioning (why, how, what if)
- Socratic questioning
- Metacognition (prediction, reflection, peer feedback)
- Project-based learning (PBL)
- Mind-mapping
- Case studies

STRATEGIES

- Open-ended questioning (why, how, what if)

- Give a clear time limit for preparing answers and then have a “Ready, Set, Post” moment
  - In-person students have time to think. This can feel awkward online if timing isn’t clear.
  - Promotes divergent thinking as students haven’t seen each other’s answers

  - Practice:
    - Post an open-ended question related to the topic of critical thinking.
    - You have two minutes to prepare. Do NOT post until I say “Post!”

STRATEGIES

- Socratic method: encourage students to analyze and think deeply rather than just memorize information

- Grammar:

Why do you think the author chose to use past tense here?

- Vocab

What do you think the word “home” implies that the word “house” does not?

- Clarification of meaning

Can you give me an example of what you mean?

YOUR TRIUMPHS AND CHALLENGES

What challenges have you faced in trying to develop critical thinking amongst your students?

Short Answer

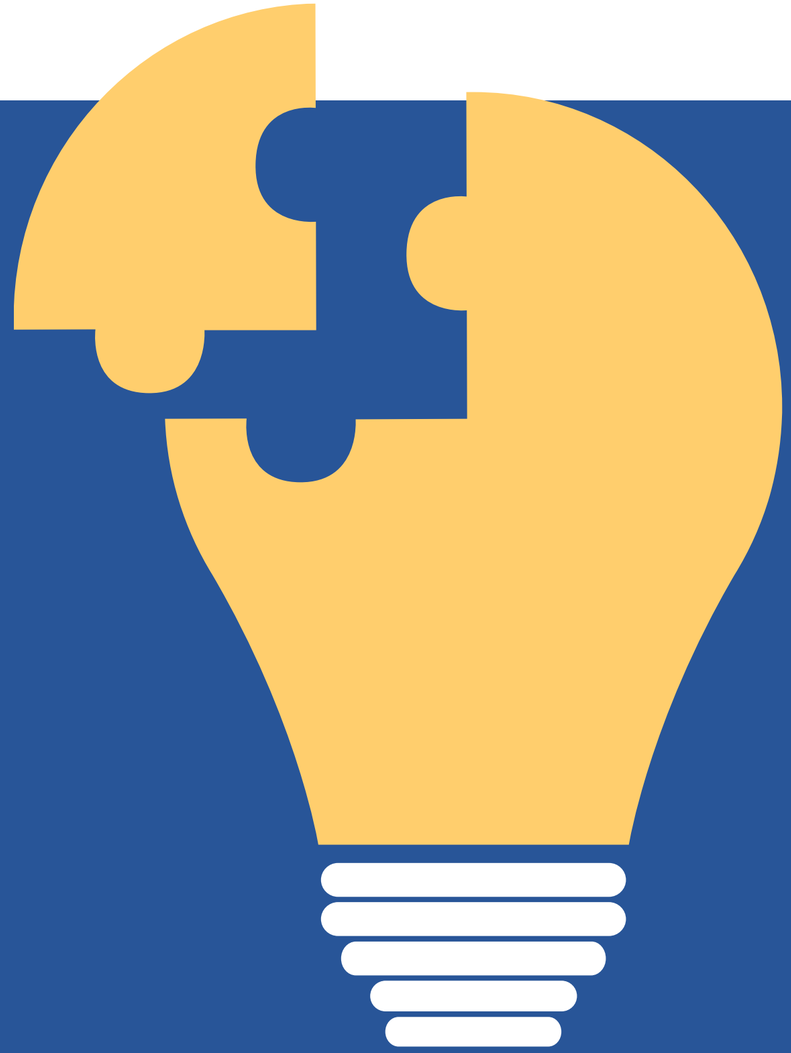
02 TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS

Model thinking for students

Provide varied perspectives via authentic materials

Promote safe environment for exploration of thoughts
(i.e. spaces where there is no “right” answer)

Integrate reflection often



THANK YOU!
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

n.m.overcash@gmail.com

https://www.linkedin.com/in/nikkiovercash/