



Capstone Project:
Teaching Julius Caesar
with Differentiated Instruction
A Curriculum Unit Approach

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For

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Slide reference – cover page, slide 1 Caesar standing.jpg, https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTZUD25QOOoMV7qAAgoEA0Zly3Upx4eO_aWsqZJOUfe4FDuKlZF

Why Is Differentiated Instruction So Vitally Important to the Modern Classroom?

My Answer to the Previous Question

From my research it seems that the answer is YES! For educators, to cling to the overused methods of instruction is like saying, one size fits all. That is simply not true. A teacher has students in his/her classroom each person coming with different faces and personalities. Each of them bring to the subject matter being taught some new way of looking at the material and arriving at the correct answer by a different route.

Youth today, and I hesitate to say it, seem to have the need of entertainment in all that they do. So it is with education. When I began this course that would lead to Master of Arts Degree' the old fashioned side of me was not able to turn toward the newer structure of teaching. Over the period of the last several years that I have been taught by my teachers at Hamline University I have begun to be able to grow out of that shell and immerse myself in new ways which will make my work and that of the students more challenging but exciting in the classroom.

Whether you are a beginner at teaching or a seasoned pro take the time to read this work and others like it and find a renewed joy in your educational sphere.

What are the steps of Differentiated Instruction?

- ▶ According to Carol Ann Tomlinson there are four basic steps in accomplishing this concept.
- ▶ 1. Content
- ▶ 2. Process
- ▶ 3. Process
- ▶ 4. Learning Environment

Tomlinson, C. A. (1999). *The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners*. Alexandria, VA, ASCD.

The Project

- ▶ To work with differentiation it helps to have a Victorian Mindset.
- ▶ If you are an intern in teaching always have additional ways of explaining the material you are teaching.
- ▶ If you are a seasoned veteran at teaching save your lessons from previous years.
- ▶ It is important to remember to refresh your material every year or so.
- ▶ Make sure to cover the standards in place in whatever material you teach.

Content

- ▶ Again, you should match the standards of your lesson plan to the standards of your state and district.
- ▶ If you have students that do not understand lesson content you could ask that they begin with concepts on a lower level of the material you are teaching . You might start with Bloom's Taxonomy
- ▶ Bloom's Taxonomy is a classification of levels of intellectual behavior moving from lower order thinking to skills of higher level while students with mastery might apply and analyzing the content and students who have the highest levels of mastery could be asked to work in the areas of evaluation and creating new materials.

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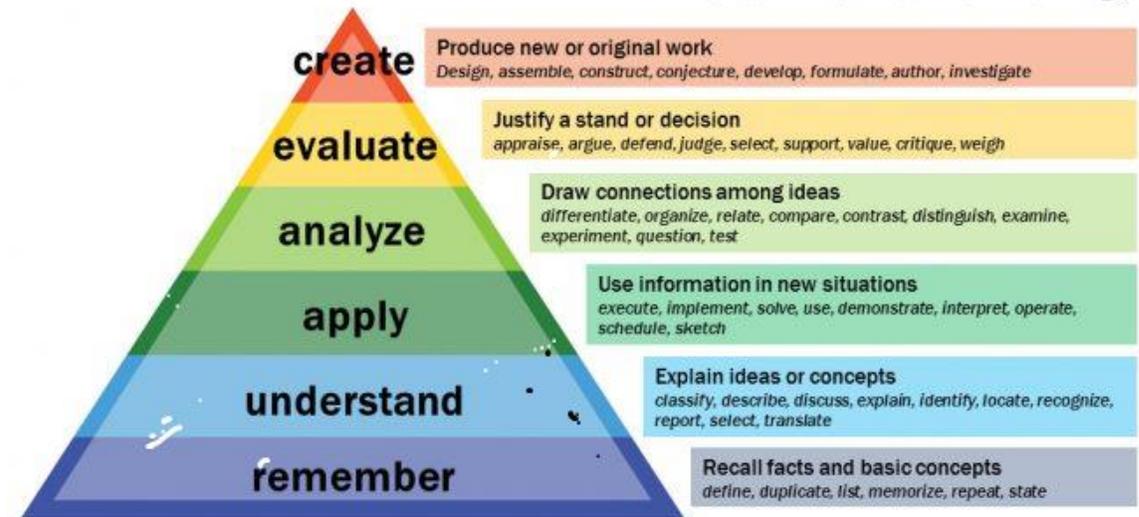
Blooms Taxonomy

The Six Levels:

- ▶ 1. Remembering
- ▶ 2. Understanding
- ▶ 3. Applying
- ▶ 4. Analyzing
- ▶ 5. Evaluating
- ▶ 6. Creating

Armstrong, P. Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University. (2018) Accessed at <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/blooms-taxonomy/> April 5, 2018.

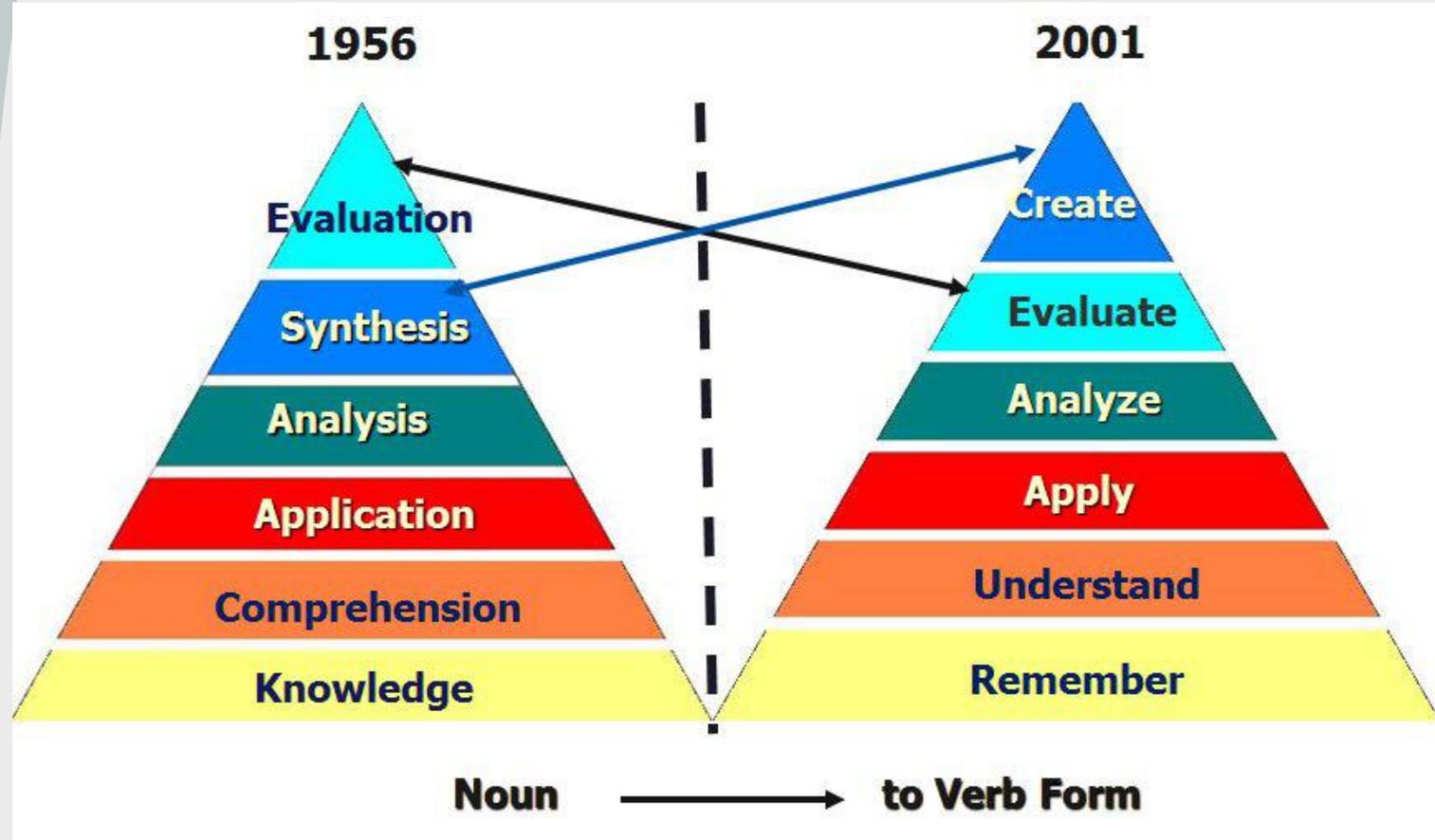
Bloom's Taxonomy



 Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching

Bloom's Taxonomy Revised

Wilson, L. Understanding the New Version of Bloom's Taxonomy ©Leslie Owen Wilson (2016, 2013, 2005, 2001) Accessed at <https://thesecondprinciple.com/teaching-essentials/beyond-bloom-cognitive-taxonomy-revised/> April 5, 2018.



Examples of Differentiating Activities

- ▶ 1. Matching vocabulary words to activities
- ▶ 2. Read a passage of text and answer related questions
- ▶ 3. Differentiate fact from opinion in a story or drama
- ▶ 4. Think of a situation that happened to a character in a story and write or tell a different outcome

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Process

- ▶ All students learn at a different pace.
- ▶ The teacher needs to develop materials that will work with the students in your class.
- ▶ The styles being visual, auditory, kinesthetic and with words.
- ▶ The teacher may break the class into smaller groups to work in partnership with another student or a small group.
- ▶ At times groups needing assistance can with a class aide or parent volunteer.

Examples of a Differentiated Process



- Use texts that will benefit both visual and word learners.

- Allow auditory learners to listen to audio books.

- Allow kinesthetic learners to use the computer to complete interactive assignment online.

Product

- ▶ 1. Read and write learners create a book report.
- ▶ 2. Visual learners create a graphic organizer of the story.
- ▶ 3. Auditory learners give an oral book report.
- ▶ 4. Kinesthetic learners build a diorama illustrating the story.

Learning Environment

1. Conditions for learning must possess physical and psychological components.

Examples of Differentiating the Environment

- 1. Break students into small reading groups to discuss the assignment.
- 2. Allow students to read individually if preferred.
- 3. Create quiet spaces where there are no distractions.

Final Thoughts

- ▶ This introduction is designed to open new windows in your mind when contemplating the basics of differentiated instruction.
- ▶ It is the hope of this writer that you will be excited and inspired by this work which is so very important to today's educational program.

Will Stackhouse, April 5, 2018