



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.

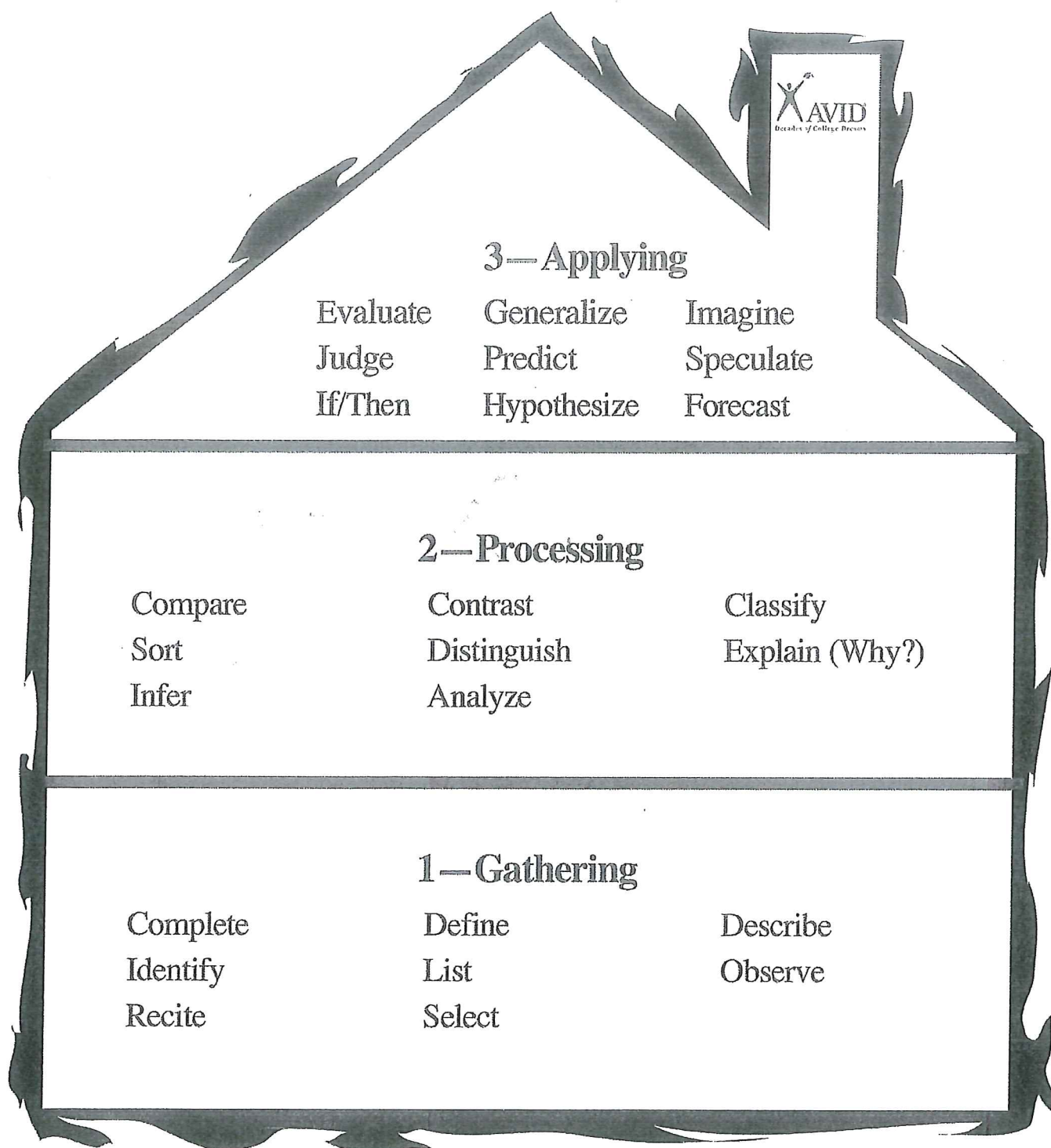
Adapted from a quotation by Oliver Wendell Holmes

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.





Vocabulary: Costa's Levels of Thinking and Questioning



LEVEL 1

Remember	Define	List	Recall	Match
	Repeat	State	Memorize	Identify
	Name	Describe	Label	Record
Show Understanding	Give examples	Rewrite	Review	Tell
	Restate	Recognize	Locate	Extend
	Discuss	Explain	Find	Summarize
	Express	Report	Paraphrase	Generalize

LEVEL 2

Use Understanding	Dramatize	Use	Translate	Interpret
	Practice	Compute	Change	Prepare
	Operate	Schedule	Pretend	Demonstrate
	Imply	Relate	Discover	Infer
	Apply	Illustrate	Solve	
Examine	Diagram	Question	Analyze	Criticize
	Distinguish	Inventory	Differentiate	Experiment
	Compare	Categorize	Select	Break down
	Contrast	Outline	Separate	Discriminate
	Divide	Debate	Point out	
Create	Compose	Draw	Plan	Modify
	Design	Arrange	Compile	Assemble
	Propose	Suppose	Revise	Prepare
	Combine	Formulate	Write	Generate
	Construct	Organize	Devise	

LEVEL 3

Decide	Judge	Rate	Choose	Conclude
	Value	Justify	Assess	Summarize
	Predict	Decide	Select	
	Evaluate	Measure	Estimate	
Supportive Evidence	Prove your answer.	Give reasons for your answer.	Explain your answer. Why or why not?	Why do you feel that way?
	Support your answer.			

Bloom's Taxonomy of Questioning

Bloom's Taxonomy categorizes the types of thinking students do into seven categories. Evaluation and synthesis are the most complex types of thinking and questioning, and knowledge and comprehension questions and thinking are the most basic forms.

Evaluation - Judging Based on Criteria

Assess	Test	Select	Support
Decide	Measure	Judge	Conclude
Rank	Recommend	Explain	Compare
Grade	Convince	Discriminate	Summarize

Synthesis - Using Parts of New Information to Create Whole

Combine	Substitute	Invent	Prepare
Integrate	Plan	What if?	Generalize
Modify	Create	Compose	Rewrite
Rearrange	Design	Formulate	

Analysis - Seeing Parts and Relationships

Analyze	Explain	Arrange	Select
Separate	Connect	Divide	Explain
Order	Classify	Compare	Infer

Comprehension - Understanding Meaning

Summarize	Associate	Contrast	Discuss
Describe	Distinguish	Predict	Extend
Interpret	Estimate	Differentiate	

Knowledge - Recalling Information

List	Identify	Examine	Who
Define	Show	Tabulate	When
Tell	Label	Quote	Where
Describe	Collect	Name	



Writing Higher-level Questions

Flow chart

