

Tool 28: Performance Criteria for Layered Learning

After determining which layer of learning the content standard is asking for, customize the learning into three layers—for students in the essential knowledge, application, and complex-thinking layers of learning. This should be determined on the basis of the initial preassessment as well as your observation and knowledge of student abilities.

This list needs to be fluid and flexible. Some learners who are initially thought to be in the essential knowledge layer may demonstrate that they are ready to take on the expectations of the application layer. Some students who had complex-thinking expectations may demonstrate that they are not ready for the extra challenge.

Next, modify the initial rubric, so that you have three different rubrics, one for each of the three layers of learning. Again, all students would ultimately be expected to meet the expectations of the standard.

ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE LAYER	APPLICATION LAYER	COMPLEX-THINKING LAYER