

Reading social science

Academic Skills (GLCb1004)

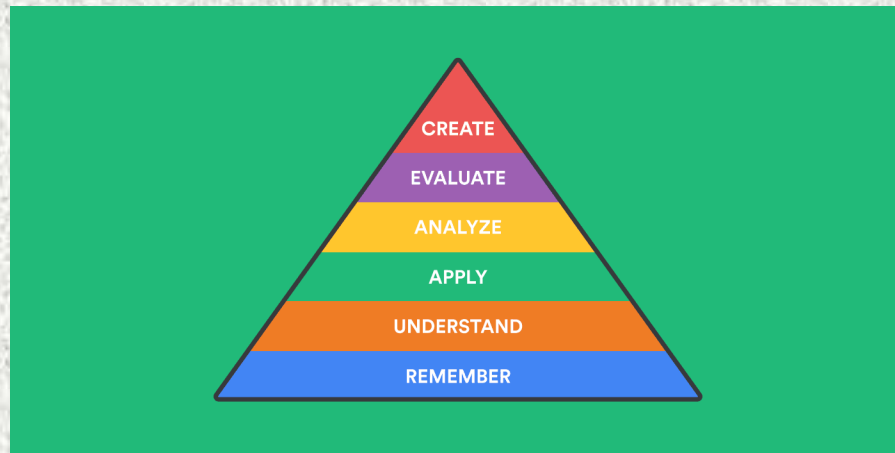
Week 03

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Learning new skills

Education is not only about „knowing things“.

- Higher cognitive skills – *Bloom's taxonomy*:



- Reading and notetaking are the beginning of a creative process

Reorganizing our pattern of study

- Processing ideas in a complex way
- Analyzing a passage of a text
- Extracting a structure from what you read
- Criticize and discussing ideas of authors rather than just reproducing them

“The quality of the work we produce will depend upon the quality of our internal processing of the ideas we read” (Greetham 2001, p. 83).

Reading – common problems

- Common assumption = we need to always read word-by-word, we cannot miss anything
 - reading becomes slow, tiring, and time-consuming
 - we have no time to engage with higher cognitive skills

Reading – new strategies

- Read purposefully
- Familiarize yourself with the structure of the text
- Choose the right strategy
 - Word-for-word – text of central importance
 - Skim - getting general impression
 - Scan - looking for key words
- Become a deep-level processor of information

Three steps for multiple reading

- Reading for comprehension
 - First reading
- Reading for analysis and structure
 - Organizing notes and thoughts
- Reading for criticism and evaluation
 - Engaging in a dialogue with authors

In-class activity:

Two questions about the reading

In pairs or groups of three discuss the following:

1. Did you adopt any specific strategy when reading the text about climate change and migration? (word-for-word, skimming, scanning, notetaking, critical thinking?)
2. How did you come up with the question n. 1 (answered in the text)?
3. How did you come up with the question n. 2 (not answered in the text)?
4. Would you say that you need to adopt a particular reading strategy to formulate each of these questions?

Next Week:

Week #4: Effective notetaking

- **Reading:** B. Greetham (2001) How to Write Better Essays, Chapters 13–15
- **Homework:** Take written notes on the reading for the Global Social Movements session of your introductory course and bring a copy to class.