

**Depth of Knowledge Levels, Observable Success Criteria
(Engagement), and Content/Skills to be Learned**

Level + Purpose	Success Criteria (from Novice to Expert) <i>I/we can...</i>
1: Acquire Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Follow specific steps to complete routine tasks o Retrieve/locate/recall facts, details, terms o Use required tools/resources for specific purpose o Practice and self-monitor routine skills/processes o Perform routine operations; apply rules o Recite/paraphrase definitions, principles
2: Use, Connect, and Conceptualize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Explain relationships (cause-effect; compare-contrast; if-then) o Organize or graph information o Summarize, sequence, sort, classify, infer o Predict based on observations, prior knowledge o Pose conceptual questions, problems, or topics to investigate o Select and use tool/strategy for a specific purpose (e.g., word problem, collect data)
3: Construct and Deepen Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Uncover relevant, accurate, credible information, flaws in a design/claims o Investigate questions that explore underlying/implied meanings o Use criteria to evaluate or develop supporting evidence for conclusions, solutions, claims, point of view/POV. o Conduct/revise/refine investigations o Solve non-routine problems. o Self-assess/reflect; use feedback to improve quality o Make connection to Big Ideas or themes
4: Extend, Transfer, and Broaden Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Initiate, transfer, and construct new knowledge o Modify, create, elaborate, or evaluate based on analysis or integration of information from multiple sources o Raise novel questions, investigate multi-faceted real-world problems or issues o Self-assess/reflect; use feedback to improve quality o Develop broader insights linked to Big Ideas, Essential Questions, or themes

Source: From *Applying Depth of Knowledge and Cognitive Rigor: An Educator's Guide to Supporting Deeper Learning*, by K. Hess, 2025, Teachers College Press. Copyright 2025 by Teachers College Press. Adapted with permission.