

# USE IT NOW



How do you incorporate opportunities for students to critically think and problem solve in your classroom?

- Provide real-world problems or scenarios within activities or discussions.
- Connect learning to career application. What are challenges students may face in the workplace?
- Have students research “current practice” for solving identified problems.
- Encourage students to look for answers.
- Promote discussions through higher order questions.
- Ask purposeful questions (how or why something happens).
- Require synthesis of information from multiple sources for response.
- Encourage peers to ask follow up questions.
- Promote self-reflection.
- Encourage students to track their own learning including changes in thought.
- Require students to write course summaries.

## CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING

# ASSESSING CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING



To determine their level of deep approaches to learning, students were asked about the following in a national survey:

## Higher-Order Learning

- Analyzed the basic elements of an idea, experience, or theory, such as examining a particular case or situation in depth and considering its components.
- Synthesized and organized ideas, information, or experiences into new, more complex interpretations and relationships.
- Made judgments about the value of information, arguments, or methods, such as examining how others gathered and interpreted data and assessing the soundness of their conclusions.
- Applied theories or concepts to practical problems or in new situations.

## Integrative Learning

- Worked on a paper or project that required integrating ideas or information from various sources.
- Included diverse perspectives (different races, religions, gender, political beliefs, etc.) in class discussion or writing assignments.
- Put together ideas or concepts from different courses when completing assignments or during class discussions.
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with faculty members outside of class discussions.
- Discussed ideas from your readings or classes with others outside of class (students, family members, co-workers, etc.).

## Reflective Learning

- Examined the strengths and weaknesses of your own views on a topic or issue.
- Tried to better understand someone else's views by imagining how an issue looks from his or her perspective.
- Learned something that changed the way you understand an issue or concept.