

List of Verbs for Formulating An Abstract

The following verbs have been found to be effective in formulating learning or educational writing.

1. Those that communicate knowledge:

Information

cite	identify	quote	relate	summarize	update
count	indicate	recite	repeat	tabulate	write
define	list	recognize	select	tell	
describe	name	record	state	trace	

Comprehension

assess	contrast	distinguish	interpolate	restate
associate	demonstrate	estimate	interpret	review
classify	describe	explain	locate	translate
compare	differentiate	express	predict	
compute	discuss	extrapolate	report	

Application

apply	employ	match	relate	sketch
calculate	examine	operate	report	solve
choose	illustrate	order	restate	translate
complete	interpolate	practice	review	treat
demonstrate	interpret	predict	schedule	use
develop	locate	prescribe	select	utilize

Analysis

analyze	criticize	diagram	infer	question
appraise	debate	differentiate	inspect	separate
contract	deduce	distinguish	inventory	summarize
contrast	detect	experiment	measure	

Synthesis

arrange	construct	formulate	organize	produce
assemble	create	generalize	plan	propose
collect	design	integrate	prepare	specify
combine	detect	manage	prescribe	validate
compose	document			

Evaluation

appraise	critique	evaluate	rank	score
assess	decide	grade	rate	select
choose	determine	judge	recommend	test
compare	estimate	measure	revise	

2. Those that impart skills:

demonstrate	hold	massage	pass	visualize
diagnose	integrate	measure	write	
diagram	internalize	operate	project	
empathize	listen	palpate	record	

3. Those that convey attitudes:

acquire	exemplify	plan	reflect	transfer
consider	modify	realize	revise	

Avoid using these verbs

appreciate	have faith in	know	learn
understand	believe		

Note: These verbs are often used but are open to many interpretations and do not make a learning objective SMART.