

Cognitive Verb Middle School Work Plan

Rationale

As the Cognitive Verbs are the basis of testing in the new senior syllabuses, they should be considered a vital part of teaching and learning in the middle school years. Students will have to take in dense subject content during their senior years, as well as deeply understand the Cognitive Verbs.

The Cognitive Verbs should be introduced as early as possible and integrated into all classwork and assessment pieces. As students progress through their middle school years, their command of problem-solving skills and their familiarity with the Cognitive Verbs should guarantee that, in Years 11 and 12, their focus can be entirely on success on the external assessments. However, this does not mean that the emphasis on Cognitive Verbs should decrease. During Year 10 onwards, the assessment pieces should be modelled to follow the same style as the senior external assessments, including the use of Cognitive Verbs throughout.

To prepare students in middle school, we make the following recommendations:

- Each week, there should be a cohort-wide focus on one Cognitive Verb for Years 7-10;
- Each teacher is responsible for integrating the CV into their subject;
- Teachers should explicitly cover the problem-solving skills and subject-specific applications of the CV;
- Students' early introduction to the Cognitive Verbs should focus on strong fundamentals of reading comprehension and problem-solving techniques as espoused by Mighty Minds.

The following plan outlines how students can cover Cognitive Verb content during Years 7-9 and fulfil the above recommendations. This content can be covered using the Mighty Minds Cognitive Verb packages or *Pathways to Success: Cognitive Verbs* workbook, in conjunction with online testing on the Mighty Minds Portal. Some CVs are covered twice in this plan, as they are particularly important or to highlight nuances between similar CVs (for example Compare and Contrast). As this is a sample plan, it outlines a general order that is ideal for most schools. However, these plans can be adapted to suit the needs of specific schools, if required.

Year 7

Each term, students should be explicitly exposed to 8-10 Cognitive Verbs; allowance is made for some repetition where needed, or to allow for the students to focus on an assessment piece. However, we note that there should be 2-4 Cognitive Verbs that are the explicit focus of each of assessment piece.

Term 1

We recommend a baseline Literacy and Numeracy diagnostic test at the start of Year 7 to ascertain the students' initial achievement levels.

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Recall			
Week 2	Define			
Week 3	Understand			
Week 4	Describe			
Week 5	Explain			
Week 6	Interpret			
Week 7	Calculate			
Week 8	Solve			

Term 2

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Classify			
Week 2	Categorise			
Week 3	Comprehend			
Week 4	Recognise			
Week 5	Calculate			
Week 6	Solve			
Week 7	<i>Explain (revision)</i>			
Week 8	<i>Post-testing using Cognitive Verb testing</i>			

Term 3

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Examine			
Week 2	Structure			
Week 3	Sequence			
Week 4	Construct			
Week 5	Sketch			
Week 6	Compare			
Week 7	Contrast			
Week 8	<i>Post-testing using Cognitive Verb testing</i>			

Term 4

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Clarify			
Week 2	Summarise			
Week 3	Organise			
Week 4	Discuss			
Week 5	Comment			
Week 6	<i>Compare/Contrast</i>			

Year 8

As the students increase in metacognition and their familiarity with the Cognitive Verbs, the focus should be on their ability to self-assess the thoroughness of their responses. Based on Mighty Minds feedback, or government testing data, students can be grouped so that classes have shared strengths or weaknesses, allowing teachers to guide the students appropriately.

Term 1

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Apply			
Week 2	Deduce			
Week 3	Infer			
Week 4	Differentiate			
Week 5	Discriminate			
Week 6	Express			
Week 7	Synthesise			
Week 8	Hypothesise			

Term 2

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Explore			
Week 2	Develop			
Week 3	Consider			
Week 4	Assess			
Week 5	Judge			
Week 6	Document			
Week 7	Analyse			
Week 8	<i>Semester One post-testing of Cognitive Verbs</i>			

Term 3

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Communicate			
Week 2	Justify			
Week 3	<i>Explain (revision)</i>			
Week 4	Propose			
Week 5	Modify			
Week 6	Argue			
Week 7	Demonstrate			
Week 8	<i>Analyse (revision)</i>			

Term 4

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Derive			
Week 2	Determine			
Week 3	Decide			
Week 4	Make Decisions			
Week 5	Predict			
Week 6	<i>Post-testing</i>			

Year 9

With their growing confidence in recognising Cognitive Verbs and using their problem-solving skills, students should be actively breaking down the questions, and self-assessing their responses. As the bulk of the Cognitive Verbs have been covered by this time, a large number of more complex verbs will be repeated to allow students to fine-tune their skills.

Term 1

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Appreciate			
Week 2	Resolve			
Week 3	<i>Analyse (revision)</i>			
Week 4	<i>Synthesise (revision)</i>			
Week 5	Prove			
Week 6	Manipulate			
Week 7	<i>Modify (revision)</i>			
Week 8	<i>Calculate</i>			

Term 2

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Generate			
Week 2	Distinguish			
Week 3	Symbolise			
Week 4	Devise			
Week 5	Discriminate			
Week 6	Evaluate			
Week 7	Use			
Week 8	<i>Semester One post-testing of Cognitive Verbs</i>			

Term 3

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Experiment			
Week 2	Conduct			
Week 3	Test			
Week 4	Design			
Week 5	Create			
Week 6	Realise			
Week 7	Interpolate			
Week 8	Extrapolate			

Term 4

Week	Cognitive Verb	Book Reference	Useful Links	Explanation
Week 1	Reflect			
Week 2	Critique			
Week 3	Appraise			
Week 4	Execute			
Week 5	Implement			
Week 6	Investigate			
Week 7	<i>Post-testing of Cognitive Verbs</i>			