

FORMULATING EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Based on identified needs of a target audience, objectives are the explicit action statements that operationalize educational goals and communicate to participants the instructional intent of an activity.

Objectives should directly relate to the acquisition of knowledge, skills and (or) attitudes and be stated in terms of what the *participant* is expected to learn and be able to do, rather than what is anticipated to be presented or taught.

Below are examples of objectives that are written both correctly and incorrectly for an Oncology presentation:

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to:

Incorrect (too broad or vague; not measurable)

1. Appreciate new treatments for breast cancer.

Correct (precise, measurable)

1. Discuss recent research on new bisphosphonates in the treatment of hypercalcemia of malignancy, and evaluate their potential for prevention of bone metastases in patients with early-stage breast cancer.

Please note that objectives are to be specific statements about what knowledge or skills learners will garner as a result of participating in the activity, and provide a means by which the activity's effectiveness can be evaluated.

LIST OF VERBS FOR FORMULATING EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

The following verbs have been found effective in formulating educational objectives:

A. Those that communicate knowledge

Information

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

Comprehension

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

Application

apply	employ	locate	relate	sketch
calculate	examine	operate	report	solve
complete	illustrate	order	restate	translate
demonstrate	interpolate	practice	review	use
dramatize	interpret	predict	schedule	utilize

Analysis

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

Synthesis

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

Evaluation

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

B. Those that impart skills

diagnose	integrate	measure	percuss	
empathize	internalize	palpate	project	
hold	massage	pass	visualize	