UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Flexible Verbs for Crafting Goals

Verbs for writing goals that leave room for more than one way to learn and show learning

By Beth Stark, M.S.Ed., CPACC

About This Resource

Use flexible verbs when you write learning goals. They describe what learners will understand or do, and leave room for more than one way to show it. Avoid inflexible verbs in learning goals, because they tie the goal to one way of working toward it.

The verb lists are shared with permission from Dr. Patti Kelly Ralabate, author of Your UDL Lesson Planner (2016). The full reference is at the end of this page.



Universal Design for Learning

Reaching ALL Learners

Flexible and Inflexible Verbs for Crafting Goals

Flexible verbs describe what learners will understand or do, and leave room for more than one way to show it. Inflexible verbs tie the goal to one way of working toward it.

FLEXIBLE	FLEXIBLE	INFLEXIBLE
Analyze	Determine	Add
Answer	Equate	Articulate
Apply	Exhibit	Copy
Apportion	Explain	Diagram
Choose	Express	Divide
Cite	Formulate	Draw
Clarify	Judge	Decode
Communicate	Identify	Graph
Compose	Indicate	Mark
Construct	Interpret	Multiply
Convey	Illustrate	Name
Correct	Predict	Orate
Create	Prove	Outline
Calculate	Pick	Point
Combine	Present	Pronounce
Compare	Produce	Recite
Compute	Recognize	Read
Defend	Reveal	Replicate
Define	Revise	Say
Describe	Select	Speak
Devise	Share	State
Display	Show	Subtract
Distinguish	Specify	Take
Decipher	Solve	Talk
Decrease	Tally	Transcribe
Deduce		Write
Demonstrate		

Verb lists shared with permission from Ralabate, P. K. (2016). Your UDL lesson planner: The step-by-step guide for teaching all learners. Paul H. Brookes Publishing. Beth Stark, Educator and Consultant · Inclusive Learning Systems · UDL · Accessibility

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Text Version

✓ Flexible verbs (52 verbs)

Green columns on the poster.

- ✓ Analyze
- ✓ Answer
- ✓ Apply
- ✓ Apportion
- ✓ Calculate
- ✓ Choose
- ✓ Cite
- ✓ Clarify
- ✓ Combine
- ✓ Communicate
- ✓ Compare
- ✓ Compose
- ✓ Compute
- ✓ Construct
- ✓ Convey
- ✓ Correct
- ✓ Create
- ✓ Decipher
- ✓ Decrease
- ✓ Deduce
- ✓ Defend
- ✓ Define
- ✓ Demonstrate
- ✓ Describe
- ✓ Determine
- ✓ Devise
- ✓ Display
- ✓ Distinguish
- ✓ Equate
- ✓ Exhibit
- ✓ Explain
- ✓ Express
- ✓ Formulate
- ✓ Identify
- ✓ Illustrate
- ✓ Indicate
- ✓ Interpret
- ✓ Judge
- ✓ Pick
- ✓ Predict
- ✓ Present
- ✓ Produce
- ✓ Prove
- ✓ Recognize
- ✓ Reveal
- ✓ Revise
- ✓ Select
- ✓ Share
- ✓ Show
- ✓ Solve
- ✓ Specify
- ✓ Tally

✗ Inflexible verbs to avoid in goals

(26 verbs)

These verbs tie a goal to one way of working toward it. Orange column on the poster.

- ✗ Add
- ✗ Articulate
- ✗ Copy
- ✗ Decode
- ✗ Diagram
- ✗ Divide
- ✗ Draw
- ✗ Graph
- ✗ Mark
- ✗ Multiply
- ✗ Name
- ✗ Orate
- ✗ Outline
- ✗ Point
- ✗ Pronounce
- ✗ Read
- ✗ Recite
- ✗ Replicate
- ✗ Say
- ✗ Speak
- ✗ State
- ✗ Subtract
- ✗ Take
- ✗ Talk
- ✗ Transcribe
- ✗ Write

The verb lists are shared with permission. Find Your UDL Lesson Planner at Brookes Publishing (https://products.brookespublishing.com/Your-UDL-Lesson-Planner-P896.aspx)

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