

Three Story Intellect

The Three Story Intellect involves the explicit and intentional movement of students from lower to higher levels of thinking can become an explicit and intentional strategy through the application and integration of "The Three Story Intellect. Inspired by an Oliver Wendell Holmes and adapted for academic purposes by Art Costa, the three story intellect provides a means by which students can recognize the various levels of thinking. All three are important components of good thinking and students can begin their thought processes at any of the three levels. When all three levels become part of student thinking, they have achieved higher order thinking. As presented here, the scheme has been modified by Fritz Detwiler (fdetwiler@adrian.edu).

There are one-story intellects, two-story intellects, and three-story intellects with skylights.

All fact collectors who have no aim beyond their facts are one-storymen.

Two-story men compare, reason, generalize, using the labor of fact collectors as their own.

Three-story men idealize, imagine, predict--their best illumination comes from above the skylight.

-- Oliver Wendell Holmes

First Story -- Information

Count

Define

Describe

Identify

List

Observe

Name

Recite

Second Story -- Explanation / Analysis

Analyze

Categorize

Compare/Contrast

Explain

Infer

Make Analogies

Sequence

Synthesize

Third Story -- Interpretation / Application

Apply a principle

Evaluate

Forecast

Hypothesize

Imagine

Assess

Predict

Speculate