

Levels of Connection

Bowling Green University, <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/Assessment/Connect.htm>

“Connecting” is the essence of creative problem solving, shown in synthesizing knowledge within and across courses, integrating theory and practice, linking academic and life experiences, and relating one’s self and culture to diverse cultures within the U.S. and globally. The quality of connections made in course assignments will be evaluated using the features defining the four levels shown below.

Level 1 Connection (Beginner)

- Describe similarities and differences in a collection or set of items
- Categorize items or observations into groups
- Recognize simple links among topics or concepts in a course
- Offer accurate definitions of terms and concepts
- Describe the setting (e.g., context, environment, culture, domain) in which connections are being made

Level 2 Connection (Novice)

- Organize groups of items into ordered collections and specify the organizing principle(s)
- Recognize links among topics and concepts presented in different courses
- Relate and use information from other courses or experiences in the current setting
- Formulate generalizations about collections or sets of items
- Distinguish concrete and abstract representations
- Identify disciplinary concepts (theories, frameworks) and instances of their application

Level 3 Connection (Proficient)

- Use disciplinary frameworks and concepts to illuminate relationships among apparently diverse items
- Examine phenomena from multiple viewpoints, both concretely and abstractly
- Specify the limits or boundaries within which generalizations apply
- Apply abstract academic knowledge to solve concrete practical problems

Level 4 Connection (Advanced)

- Identify ways to reconcile diverse or conflicting priorities, viewpoints, or options.
- Call attention to something that has not been adequately noticed by others (e.g., a subtle or deep relationship, novel findings or interpretations, the context or frame of reference)
- Apply frameworks from multiple domains of knowledge and practice to create something (e.g., business plan, musical composition, thesis, capstone paper, research project)
- Integrate diverse elements into a product, performance or artifact that fits its context coherently