



# Instructional Design Framework for Construction Materials Training

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The construction industry is suffering, in part, from a lack of training programs offered to the construction workforce. Unfortunately, most construction training and education research focuses on university student education. Integrating education science theory into construction workforce training has the potential to improve industry training but there is a dearth of studies that present details of this integration process. To address this gap, a training framework was developed to educate material stakeholders on material properties, selection, and installation. This framework is based on andragogical and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles. An assessment method evaluates training agendas to improve upon instructional design before training implementation. This method assesses the proposed training framework by enumerating the occurrences of Bloom's Taxonomy verbs to determine how closely the proposed training's goals and objectives followed Bloom's guidelines. This study culminates by establishing linkages from educational theory to proposed training modules. The module template is presented in a goals and objectives format so that organizations can best implement and test this training framework.

**Keywords:** andragogy, universal design for learning, construction, training, materials, instructional design

## INTRODUCTION

Construction plays a major role in the global economic development (Hosseini and Jabbarani 2012). Construction defects often result from the absence of an installation methodology or lack of knowledge of proper installation (Forcada et al., 2014) leading to a material or system failure even if the proper material is selected (Tatum 2011). Given the dependence of project outcomes on skilled labor, quality material installation and effective selection are paramount (Mills et al., 2009). Lack of technical knowledge, training, and experienced skilled labor and supervision, along with procedure non-compliance, have been identified as causative factors for 13% of total construction field rework costs in the U.S. (Karimi et al., 2018). The potential loss of life from material, system, and structural failures, along with the significant financial losses from unnecessary rework, warrant the establishment of educational theory-integrated training programs that focus on construction materials.

It is well known that there is a global unmet need for construction industry training (Russell et al., 2007; Killingsworth and Grosskopf 2013). Existing training resources include project personnel, professional publications, textbooks, and technical information from equipment manufacturers and materials suppliers; however, there is little to no standardization in construction industry training and it is not uniformly available in the broader industry landscape outside of traditional education (Tatum 2018). Studies that come close to addressing this gap, such as the framework design example by Joo Hyung

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et al. (2008) that assesses student response to learning theory, are tailored specifically to civil engineering students rather than skilled industry applicators. These assessments and studies demonstrate the gap in training dedicated to the construction industry workforce and further highlight the gap in training specific to the field of construction materials.

A literature search reveals few published educational-theory embedded training studies dedicated in part to construction workers; however, when they do exist, these studies focus primarily on safety training. For example, Bena et al. (2009) offered 4-h safety training modules for construction workers on a high-speed railway line project in Italy. This study cited andragogy, the study of facilitating adult learning, in contrast to pedagogy, the study of facilitating child learning (Knowles 1980), as the inspiration for the training curriculum. Andragogical specialists developed safety training designed for construction contractors in a study described by Eggerth et al. (2018). Lin et al. (2018) used computer-based visualization, designed by adult education experts, to train construction workers on safety and fall fatalities. These studies demonstrate few instances of andragogy-embedded training programs dedicated to construction worker safety, however, a major shortcoming within existing literature is a lack of training focusing on detailed construction means and methods. This gap also extends to educational theory-embedded training programs dedicated to construction materials.

It is common in several professional industries to apply formal educational theory to ongoing professional training. For example, Gaikwad and Bharathi (2018) apply formal educational principles to training in the field of information technology as a means of teaching artificial intelligence. Antonis et al. (2011) apply similar theories to web-based computer science training as a solution to overcoming educational barriers associated with standardized education. Ecological training programs have taken place using andragogical principles to teach participants how to investigate wildland fire behavior (Parkinson et al., 2003). Chunlin (2017) found an improvement in English language education amongst Chinese adults after the implementation of andragogical theory into a teaching framework. Andragogy was used in police training framework formulation to improve upon more traditional methodologies that were found to have limited effectiveness (Michael 2003). Given the breadth of disciplines and prior competency demonstrated by these examples, it is reasonable to expect that similar opportunities in the construction industry exist and it is possible that they be applied to construction material applicator training.

In addition to offering training, it is important to acknowledge that learners have different needs, and increasing flexibility in learning is crucial (Nikolova and Collis 1998). Universal Design for Learning (UDL) was designed by the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) to address this concern. UDL was designed to incorporate adaptable instructional materials and techniques to satisfy a wide range of learning styles is UDL (Orkwis 2003). This method presents the idea that educational support should be embedded in educational frameworks as opposed to introducing modifications haphazardly (Hitchcock 2001). Because flexibility is incorporated into the design of UDL,

it has the ability to evaluate subject, without instituting barriers that could have a negative bias towards participants such as question interpretation, phrasing, and assessment flexibility (Rose and Dolan 2000).

The overall goal of this study is to address the need for optimal construction industry training through the embedment of educational theory by creating a field application training framework developed to educate material installers on material properties, selection, and installation. This framework is designed to target current industry professionals that lack significant experience and require an introductory level training. It is based on andragogical and UDL principles; which were chosen because they accommodate adults and flexible education, respectively. This study also addresses the gap in construction industry training programs by proposing a detailed instructional design style format that can be replicated and tested by construction material manufacturers. While there may be an initial cost to institute such a program, training should be implemented for construction stakeholders on how to properly select and install construction materials because improper material selection and installation adversely affect sustainability of infrastructure and lead to project failures; which lead to greater cost in the long term.

Recent research by the authors found that there is a dearth of construction industry training programs in archival literature (Jadallah et al., 2021a); and opportunities exist to implement training programs coupled with optimal assessment methodologies grounded in established educational assessment research (Jadallah et al., 2021b). This study builds upon these findings by creating a process specific to construction materials for developing a construction training framework, as well as the developed framework. The framework is broken into modules that a wide variety of construction material manufacturers are able to implement, and each module is linked to appropriate andragogical, UDL principles, Bloom's Taxonomy terminology, and 70:20:10 principles. The assessment method contributes by providing a method of evaluating similar training agendas to improve upon instructional design before training implementations. A major issue for construction education is the lack of concentration of ongoing training for industry professionals (Mohamad et al., 2015). This research looks beyond formal education tailored to undergraduate or graduate students and focuses on active construction industry participants. This research further contributes by its focus on construction materials whereas previous research focuses on the broader construction craft training or construction equipment handling.

## METHODOLOGY

To create the framework, the core principles of Bloom's Taxonomy, the 70:20:10 principle, andragogy, and UDL were elicited and the general learning outcomes were identified and mapped to these principles. Global student outcomes were identified, which are general for materials training. An assessment method evaluating the effectiveness of this training framework is presented by quantifying the verbs associated with

the categories of Bloom's Taxonomy to address weaknesses found when generating similar training frameworks.

Bloom's Taxonomy is a sequential or hierarchical process. The theory is that one cannot understand concepts without first remembering them for example. These categories are broken into lower-order thinking skills (LOTS) and higher-order thinking skills (HOTS); with LOTS composed of remember, understand, and apply, and HOTS composed of analysis, evaluate, and create (Churches 2008). If the assumption is that the target audience has had exposure to the topic, higher-order levels of Bloom's Taxonomy should be the focus. If the assumption is the opposite, lower-order levels should be the focus. Absolute and relative frequencies of LOTS and HOTS that occur in the framework are quantified.

## Framework Construction

The developed training framework is composed of a series of modules that may be applied to virtually any construction product portfolio and this paper discusses the general philosophies and methodologies applied. This framework was designed assuming that participants have limited exposure to the subject matter. This assumption encouraged the insertion of scaffolding into the framework. Scaffolding is a term used in education to illustrate temporary support that instructors provide to learners, until they are able to complete tasks alone (Hammond 2001). This metaphor, first used by Wood et al. (1976), was taken from scaffolding used to support builders until a building can stand on its own, and the scaffolding can be removed. This theory manifests itself in the framework by including the instructor in all demonstrations and applications, as well as through an emphasis on groupmates that individuals can use for support. This ensures that participants will have someone to walk through steps and discuss processes with.

The stated goals of each module are also based on the goal setting theory of (Locke and Latham 2002), who suggest that effective objectives are those that select a specific intent, have clear action plans, and are challenging. This theory is commonly regarded as the impetus for the commonly used SMART acronym (Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, Time-bound) (Rowe et al., 2017).

The primary philosophy behind this framework is the concept of modern andragogy, which is based on six main assumptions (Merriam et al., 2007):

1. Self-Concept (SC): Adult learners are self-directed, autonomous, and independent.
2. Role of Experience (RE): The repository of an adult's experience is a rich resource for learning. Adults tend to learn by drawing from their previous experiences.
3. Readiness to Learn (RL): Adults tend to be ready to learn what they believe they need to know.
4. Orientation to Learning (OL): Adults learn for immediate applications rather than for future uses. Their learning orientation is problem-centered, task-oriented, and life-focused.
5. Internal Motivation (IM): Adults are more internally motivated than externally motivated.

6. Need to Know (NK): Adults have a need to know the value of learning and why they need to learn.

This framework was also developed to cater to a diverse learner population. This technique for developing curricula that utilizes adaptable instructional materials and techniques to satisfy a wide range of learning styles is UDL (Orkwis 2003). UDL Principles fall into three main categories. These categories are designed to present multiple means of representation, action and expression, and engagement. Each category consists of three levels that provide options to guide the learning process to accommodate a wide cross-section of learners. The Representation category consists of Levels 1–3 which provide options for perception, language, and comprehension, respectively. The Action and Expression category consists of Levels 4–6 which provide options for physical action, expression and communication, and executive functions, respectively. The Engagement category consists of Levels 7–9 which provide options for recruiting interest, sustaining effort and persistence, and self-regulations, respectively.

The framework discussed in this paper is further inspired by the findings of (McCall et al., 1988) on the source of executive management development, where 70% is derived through challenging assignments (experiential), 20% occurs through developmental relationships (social), and 10% occurs through formal training and coursework (formal); often referred to as the 70:20:10 philosophy.

The theory in breaking the framework into modules is not only to compartmentalize different lessons in the training, but to also allow participants to take structured breaks in between modules. Small diversions in learning are shown to greatly increase the participant focus (Ariga and Lleras 2011) so that when participants return for the next training module they are refreshed and ready to focus. The module format further eases the task of structuring each module so that it corresponds to the six main assumptions of andragogy.

The topics of each module are developed by identifying the overall training program's important lessons to improve the selection and installation of construction materials which are then distributed in a manner which fits the 70:20:10 philosophy while adhering to Bloom's Taxonomy, andragogical principles, and presented to instructors using the UDL format. The subject of each module was determined by a comprehensive construction education literature review that establishes the importance of construction materials education. This review found the following information, which influenced the subject of each module in the training framework:

- It is necessary to obtain knowledge of design properties such as chemical components of materials to solve and avoid issues in the field (Tatum 2011).
- Engineers may not always specify detailed material properties in design, giving applicators a wide range of materials to choose from that fall into a single portfolio (Tinotenda Fredrick 2019).
- Construction material selection is one of the most significant responsibilities of construction professionals

because it directly correlates with project performance (Mehmood et al., 2018).

- High turnovers in the construction industry have resulted in the current construction workforce possessing only baseline installation experience (Li et al., 2015).
- Learning construction through experience-based scenarios has the potential to be appealing to adults as well as increasing the potential performance of entire groups (Goulding et al., 2012).
- Construction quality control measures and troubleshooting should be emphasized due to the difference in the nature of the traditional manufacturing workforce from the construction industry workforce (Arditi and Günaydın 1997).
- Project outcomes are affected due to the lack of assessment of learning major construction tasks (Jarkas 2010).
- Construction material installation methods are to be included in construction specifications (Harris 2006), and there is an increasing demand that specification writing be taught at the undergraduate level (Abudayyeh et al., 2000).
- Research has established the importance of pre-construction meetings, and it is crucial that they are executed properly (Abbas et al., 2016).

In the following section, the connection from each module to the corresponding assumption(s) of andragogy will be evaluated. These connections are further explained in the framework table shown in the results section, emphasizing the linkages between the module construct and andragogical assumptions. This table also links the modules to UDL assessments so that training participants are assessed in terms of knowledge that they have acquired throughout the course of a training program. Applying UDL to workforce training programs will broaden participation in these programs because it was developed to focus on groups of learners, and does not follow a one size fits all methodology (Johnston and Castine 2019). The target audience is the broader construction workforce that is comprised of adults. For this reason, the theory of andragogy, which has been studied thoroughly by education experts is applied.

### Module 1: Product Chemistry

The goal of this module is to provide a basic understanding of components for any given construction material and any reactions that may occur during product mixing or installation. Training participants should learn the importance of these components and how ambient conditions influence product reactions, both during installation and in service.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as standard coursework, because this is information that must be formally taught and memorized. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "identify" and "discuss" in the "Remember" and "Understand" categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and understand the information presented. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for language and comprehension.

The most important andragogical assumptions to emphasize in structure and delivery are the NK and RE concepts. The

importance of chemistry or basic components of a construction material may not seem important during installation at face value to many installers. For this reason, it is important to stress the necessity of gaining this knowledge. Basic chemistry principles such as how materials interact with the environment that they are placed in should be emphasized while explaining which components in the materials interact with various environmental elements. This concept is made more tangible by referencing weather conditions during installation, weather conditions of material storage locations, and substrates on which materials are applied.

The NK component is further emphasized by calling on the participants' experience (RE). A simple example is asking the attendees if they have mixed a cementitious material in temperatures above 90°F. This should draw on the experience of reduced working time and early cementitious material setting time. Teaching this basic chemistry principle and how it correlates to the materials will have lasting effects if one recalls instances of experiencing the principle in action (Padwa et al., 2019).

### Module 2: Understanding Product Portfolio

It is common for construction material manufacturers to have several products within one portfolio. It is important that when detailed material properties are not specified contractors and applicators are able to select the material best suited to meet the owners' needs as well as to optimize the service life of a material post-installation (Jan et al., 2012).

This module is delivered in person by using a "hands-on" approach. Training participants are taken to a suitable location outside (but ideally nearby) the standard classroom environment where they practice installing the different products that belong to a single portfolio. This allows them to experience the differences in the different products, while at the same time giving the trainer an appreciation for the installation aptitude of each individual.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of the physical and mental components of the module. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "identify" and "comprehend" in the "Remember" and "Understand" categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and understand the information presented. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for language and comprehension.

The main andragogical assumptions correlating to the structure of this module are RE, RL, and IM. It is expected that training participants have at least some experience in applying the materials that correspond to the training that they are attending. While applying these materials it is also expected that they will revert to any experience that they have. This gives the trainer the chance to correct incorrect behavior or techniques and affirm correct behavior and techniques.

Participants of training display a positive view of "hands-on" education (Thorsteinsson and Page 2018). This outlook makes the training attendees ready to learn what they believe is a practical application of content given in the training programs.

By the same token, training attendees are motivated to internalize the information given, due to the nature of delivery. Learners are driven by the knowledge that they feel is practical (Wei and Li 2017).

This module precedes the material selection module because it offers the necessary visualization of product handling and installed conditions; further enabling participants to make educated material selection decisions.

### Module 3: Material Selection

After completing installation of several products within a portfolio, learners should have a basic appreciation for the range of products offered by the manufacturer. This module is designed to further solidify that knowledge, offering more technical information in a traditional classroom environment. Throughout the course of this module, participants should learn to evaluate material performance and application properties and select the proper material for the project requirements. It is possible to apply this concept to virtually any construction material by comparing properties within a portfolio by emphasizing their advantages, disadvantages, and how they relate to a specific project function and environment.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of there is a need for critical thinking and proper selection. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "use" in the "Apply" category appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to utilize information gathered up to this point. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for comprehension.

The andragogical assumption associated with this module is the NK concept. The opportunity should be taken in this module to highlight that while products belong in the same portfolio, and in many instances are comparable or interchangeable, there are differences in installation or material properties and performances.

### Module 4: Installation Techniques

The purpose of this module is to provide participants with an understanding of how to properly install materials. The module should incorporate best practices for safety, choosing the proper equipment to aid in the installation of materials, and using the best methods to achieve a successful installation. A "hands-on" demonstration will provide the participants with the chance to install construction materials using the recommended technique by the manufacturer. The participants will observe and then demonstrate the use of proper equipment use and product installation techniques.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of the physical and mental components of the module. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "identify" and "use" in the "Remember" and "Apply" categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and apply the information gathered. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for comprehension, expression, and communication.

The main andragogical assumptions are SL and OL. After observing the trainer apply materials with proper technique, participants are asked to do the same. During this exercise a

sense of independence is present due to the activity's nature. Each participant must learn the nuances of installation for himself or herself only after observation and slight direction from the training instructor.

The OL concept is attributed to this module because the immediate application to this knowledge becomes apparent. Participants should understand that at the conclusion of this training they will be required to apply the materials that they have been trained to install in real life situations on actual construction projects. This application is often immediate creating a sense of urgency to retain the information given.

### Module 5: Group Scenario Activity

The purpose of this activity is to provide the participants with the opportunity to use the information learned in the previous modules, to create a solution for a construction project pertaining to the materials that have been covered in the training to this point. Given a scenario with project condition information including substrate, environmental conditions, project needs, and photo documentation, the participants will work in groups to provide the information requested of their group.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a social interaction, because of the group assignment associated with the module. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "select" and "show" in the "Remember" and "Apply" categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and apply the information gathered. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for comprehension and sustaining effort and persistence.

This module draws on the assumptions of RE, OL, and NK. At this point in the training participants should not only have the experience that they have gained in their respective professional lives, but the experience that they have gained through the previous modules in the training. This module further emphasizes the participants' orientation to learning because it is task-oriented and life-focused. When presented with a real-life scenario they will be asked which products and techniques would suit the scenario best. Because it is a real-life scenario, the need to know assumption is stressed. Participants will realize that these situations occur and that they may be faced with similar scenarios in real-life instances.

### Module 6: Troubleshooting

The goal of this module is to provide the participants with an understanding of common issues related to the materials being discussed in the training. This section identifies the causes of a range of issues related to installation techniques, substrate surface preparation, ambient conditions, and possible existing structure shortcomings. This module also provides an opportunity for participants to learn ASTM methods associated with the materials that they are installing to further expand upon troubleshooting potential issues.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of the physical component of performing ASTM tests and the mental component of understanding and interpreting the results. Bloom's Taxonomy terms such as "identify" and "comprehend" in the "Remember"

and “Understand” categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and understand the information presented. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for language, comprehension, expression, and communication.

This module draws upon the assumptions of RE and NK. In this module the instructor should draw on the participant experiences by stating or asking for common issues associated with the training materials (Nuthall and Alton-Lee 1995). Participants will likely have experienced issues if they are truly common, making the material covered in the training much richer. Similarly, the instructor should stress the importance of this knowledge. The concept of troubleshooting often arises when there is a situation in the real world that is not explicitly covered or mentioned in product data guides. Participants should learn common troubleshooting methods associated with the training materials and how they are applied when there is a situation presented that is not the norm or standard.

**Module 7: Hands—On Demonstration Assessment**

In Module 4, Installation Techniques, participants observed proper installation technique and then instructed to incorporate this technique in the own installation trials. In this module, the instructor assesses each participant’s material installation. The module is separate from the Installation Techniques Module so that materials will have ample time to cure. This may vary depending on the materials used in the training program. Individuals or groups will be asked to discuss the results of ASTM tests that they will have to apply on their installations. These ASTM tests should be covered in Module six and the participants should now be able to interpret the results.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of the material installation and interpretation of results necessary to complete the module. Bloom’s Taxonomy terms such as “identify” and “comprehend” in the “Remember” and “Understand” categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember and understand the information presented. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for comprehension and self-regulation.

The main andragogical assumptions correlating to the structure of this module are RE and IM. Participants will draw on their external experience, recalling similar installations as well as their installations completed in Module 4. The experience of installing the material will provide valuable insight into the participants’ assessment of their own installation. The concept of internal motivation proves relevant because there is an inherent human psychological desire to defend oneself (Ziębacz and Moraru 2017). Participants are asked to interpret their installations and explain both the positives and negatives. The internal motivation assumption reinforced with the psychological premise of human inherent nature to defend oneself should cause a strong retention.

**Module 8: Product Specifications**

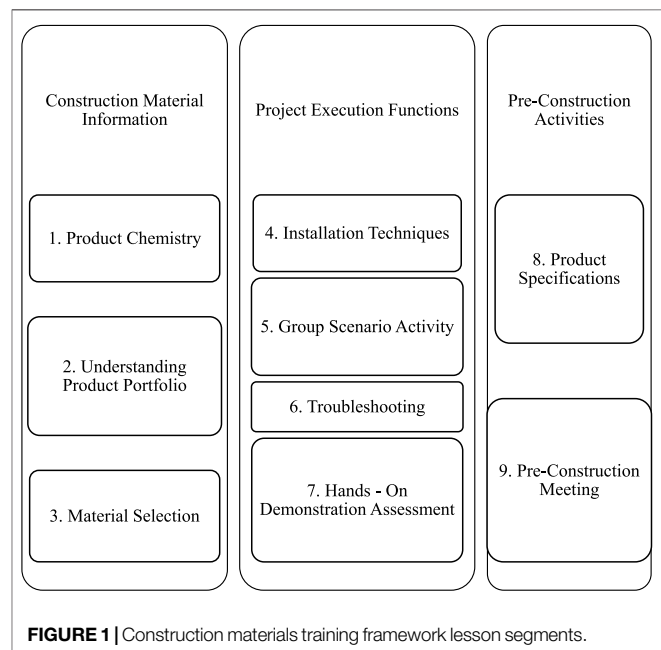
Construction specifications detail the work needed to complete a construction project. According to the Dictionary of Architecture

& Construction a specification (Harris 2006), construction material installation methods are to be included in construction specifications. This module should provide an understanding of material specifications addressed in the training program. Participants will learn how specifications contribute to installation quality and how to interpret specifications that are performance based, where product names are not used but generic product descriptions are given.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a social interaction, because groups will go over the information presented together and present the information to the class. Bloom’s Taxonomy terms such as “describe” and “document” in the “Understand” and “Apply” categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to comprehend and utilize the information gathered. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for language and comprehension.

The primary andragogical assumptions that this module draws upon are RE and RL. The instructor should again correlate the importance of specifications to past experiences that participants may have in interpreting specifications that are left open. The instructor should also revert to Module 2, Understanding the Product Portfolio to highlight differences in the products that either comply with or do not comply with common terminology in specifications associated with the materials.

This module is recommended to be given in a standard classroom environment. The assumption that adults are ready to learn is vital as there is no tangible aspect such as material installation. It is expected that the participants are interested and willing to dedicate the time necessary to learn the material being shared throughout the course of this module.



**FIGURE 1 |** Construction materials training framework lesson segments.

**TABLE 1 |** Construction materials training framework.

Module	Goals	Objectives	Materials	Activity	UDL principle	Assessment
1 (NK, RE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the main chemical components of the products covered in the training</li> <li>Identify what each component's function is within the material</li> <li>Describe the process of curing as it relates to the material</li> <li>Comprehend the influences of various conditions on material curing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When presented with a question, learners will be able to cite the basic components of a product</li> <li>When provided with a product component, learners will be able to identify its function within the product</li> <li>When presented with a question, learners will be able to work in a group and construct the basic process of the intended function of the product and list a minimum of one condition contributing to improper functionality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Classroom Presentation</li> <li>Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> <li>Instructor asks for observations from participants' experiences</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Clarify vocabulary and symbols</li> <li>3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>3.2. Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships</li> <li>3.4 Maximize transfer and generalization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups present information verbally, through text, or graphically referencing cases where project environment and product chemistry might react</li> </ul>
2 (RE, RL, IM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the necessary substrate conditions required for proper installation of the materials being discussed</li> <li>Identify and give examples of conditions in which one would use each material</li> <li>Install each material discussed during the training session</li> <li>Comprehend the differences between each material discussed during the training</li> <li>Comprehend key performance properties of various materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When given the proper tools, learners will be able to demonstrate installation of various products within a product portfolio on the intended surface or location with proper technique</li> <li>When provided with a question, learners will be able to identify and give examples of products within a portfolio that should be used for certain applications and which products would not be used for those same applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Installation Equipment/Tools</li> <li>Construction Materials</li> <li>Appropriate Installation Surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor presents hands-on demonstration of different materials</li> <li>Participants install materials after instructor demonstration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.5 Illustrate through multiple media</li> <li>3.3 Guide information processing, visualization, and manipulation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants to present information verbally, using materials as visual aids</li> </ul>
3 (NK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify conditions or requirements that would dictate the use of each material covered during the training program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When presented with a scenario, learners will be able to document an outline of a recommended systems within the product portfolio used to solve the construction problem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Classroom Presentation</li> <li>Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>3.2. Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically</li> </ul>
4 (SC, OL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehend the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used in application of materials</li> <li>Identify which tools or equipment are to be used during installation</li> <li>Comprehend the importance of using high quality installation tools</li> <li>Identify the proper steps of installation of the materials covered during training</li> <li>Identify the causes of common issues related to installation techniques</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When presented with a scenario, learners will be able to give examples of an outline of step by step installation of their recommended product system</li> <li>When presented with the proper tools, learners will be able to demonstrate and evaluate installation of the product at a specified quantity in a safe manner, and while meeting the installation requirements specified on product data guides</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Installation Equipment/Tools</li> <li>Construction Materials</li> <li>Appropriate Installation Surface</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor presents best practices for safety, choosing the right equipment, and using the best methods to achieve a successful installation</li> <li>Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> <li>Instructor presents hands-on demonstration of different materials</li> <li>Participants install materials after instructor demonstration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>3.2. Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships</li> <li>3.3 Guide information processing, visualization, and manipulation</li> <li>5.3 Build fluencies with graduated levels of support for practice and performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically assessed by instructor</li> </ul>

(Continued on following page)

**TABLE 1 |** (Continued) Construction materials training framework.

Module	Goals	Objectives	Materials	Activity	UDL principle	Assessment
5 (RE, OL, NK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work within a group to show the requested information for their scenario activity</li> <li>• Relate the information presented in previous modules to practice problem-solving a "real world" condition</li> <li>• Show an outline of the groups suggested recommendations to the rest of the class and engage in any proceeding discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When presented with a real-world scenario, learners will be able to work within a group to select possible causes of the issues outlined in the activity</li> <li>• When presented with a real-world scenario, learners will be able to work within a group to select an outline of the recommended surface preparation for their project</li> <li>• When presented with a real-world scenario, learners will be able to work within a group to select an outline of a recommended product system used to solve construction problems</li> <li>• When presented with a real-world scenario, learners will be able to work within a group to select an outline of step by step installation of their recommended product system</li> <li>• When presented with a real-world scenario, learners will be able to work within a group to show the information to the class in a presentation and engage in any proceeding discussions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Handbook</li> <li>• Classroom Presentation</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> <li>• Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>• Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> <li>• Groups will present to the class</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>• 8.3 Foster collaboration and community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically</li> </ul>
6 (RE, NK)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify causes for complaints related to improper installation</li> <li>• Identify causes for common problems that occur within a structure</li> <li>• Comprehend the variations in onsite conditions that affect installation technique or methodology</li> <li>• Comprehend the importance of site mock-ups</li> <li>• Perform ASTM tests associated with the materials discussed and comprehend the results</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When give the proper tools, learners will be able to perform relevant ASTM tests on a previously installed products and communicate the results to the instructor</li> <li>• When provided with an example of a specific material failure, learners will be able to identify potential causes of the issue</li> <li>• When provided with an example of a specific material failure, learners will be able to identify and give examples of potential remedies for the issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Handbook</li> <li>• Classroom Presentation</li> <li>• Case Studies</li> <li>• Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>• Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Clarify vocabulary and symbols</li> <li>• 3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>• 3.4 Maximize transfer and generalization</li> <li>• 8.3 Foster collaboration and community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically</li> </ul>
7 (RE, IM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Convey to the instructor each material that was installed</li> <li>• Comprehend why each material would be used</li> <li>• Comprehend the quality of each installation</li> <li>• Comprehend the results of ASTM tests conducted on the installations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When asked questions concerning installations, participants should be able to</li> <li>• Identify the product installed in each "mockup"</li> <li>• Identify and give examples of conditions that would call for each material to be used</li> <li>• Clearly state and evaluate the results of the ASTM tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student application specimen from Module 4</li> <li>• ASTM Standards</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor evokes participant's self-reported application quality interpretation and explain positives and negatives</li> <li>• Participants conduct ASTM tests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>• 3.4 Maximize transfer and generalization</li> <li>• 9.3 Develop self-assessment and reflection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor to interpret quality of installation as well as interpret ability of each participant to conduct ASTM tests</li> </ul>
8 (RE, RL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify construction documents</li> <li>• Comprehend what constitutes a need for a specification change</li> <li>• Describe the key components of a material specification</li> <li>• Define relevant test standards for the material discussed</li> <li>• Comprehend roles and responsibilities for material applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When presented with a question, learners will be able to name and give examples of all the various documents that would be considered "construction documents"</li> <li>• When presented with a question, learners will be able to describe the process for change on a construction project</li> <li>• When presented with a question, learners will be able to define the key components of a product specification</li> <li>• When presented with an application, learners will be able to determine the appropriate test standards for assessing physical properties</li> <li>• When presented with a scenario, learners will be able to describe the various roles and responsibilities of contractors, designers and manufacturers on a project</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training Handbook</li> <li>• Classroom Presentation</li> <li>• Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>• Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Clarify vocabulary and symbols</li> <li>• 3.2. Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically</li> </ul>

(Continued on following page)



**TABLE 1 | (Continued) Construction materials training framework.**

Module	Goals	Objectives	Materials	Activity	UDL principle	Assessment
9 (SC, RE, OL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehend how the pre-construction meeting contribute to project quality</li> <li>Define the important aspects of a pre-construction meeting</li> <li>Determine who should be involved in a preconstruction meeting pertaining to the material</li> <li>Describe how to implement a quality control process for material applications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When presented with a question, learners will be able to describe the importance of the pre-construction meeting</li> <li>When presented with a question, learners will be able to define and organize the aspects of a pre-construction meeting</li> <li>When presented with a question, learners should be the list and organize individual (roles) and trades that should be present during a pre-construction meeting</li> <li>When presented with a product application, learners will be able to describe a quality control process for the installation of products covered during training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training Handbook</li> <li>Classroom Presentation</li> <li>Interactive Assignments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor presents in a classroom setting</li> <li>Participants will role play pre-construction meeting</li> <li>Participants are broken into groups to discuss and prepare for assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Activate or supply background knowledge</li> <li>3.3 Guide information processing, visualization, and manipulation</li> <li>5.3 Build fluencies with graduated levels of support for practice and performance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Instructor will assess participant performance in pre-construction meeting exercise</li> <li>Groups to present information verbally, through text, or graphically</li> </ul>

### Module 9: Pre-Construction Meeting

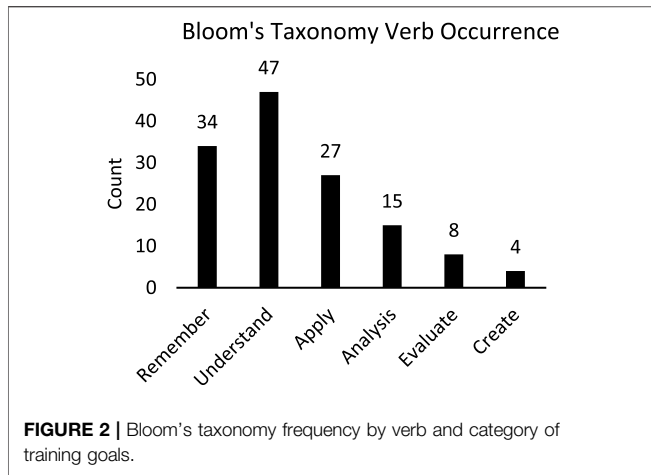
The purpose of this module is to provide an understanding of the importance of pre-constructions meeting for a material application. Participants will learn the components of pre-construction meeting, who should be involved and how to use the pre-construction meeting to assure installation quality.

Under the 70:20:10 philosophy, this module is classified as a challenging assignment, because of the need to engage in a mock pre-construction meeting. Bloom’s Taxonomy terms such as “define”, “describe”, and “organize” in the “Remember”, “Understand”, and “Create” categories, respectively appear most frequently in the goals and objectives, denoting the necessity to remember, comprehend, and perform utilizing the information gathered. The UDL principles noted are designed to provide options for comprehension, expression, and communication.

The assumptions of this module are SC, RE, and OL. Participants will be required to manage a trial pre-construction meeting pertaining to the materials addressed during training. Throughout this process they will have to direct themselves and use the knowledge that they have acquired during the training process. Feedback will be given to them following observations from the instructor. The experience that participants have both before and during training again has a vital role. They will have to call upon not only technical information acquired during training, but also the soft skills necessary to manage expectations of product installation quality, performance, and scheduling. The expectation is that participants will be involved in construction projects involving the materials that they have just been trained to install very soon after training. This provides the connection to the orientation to learning assumption as they should feel the exercise’s immediate application.

### Assessment

The Taxonomy of Educational Objectives (Bloom 1956), revised by Anderson and Krathwohl (2001) divides education into six categories of processes necessary for effective education. These processes are remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, and create. These categories pertain to the cognitive domain of the taxonomy. The affective and psychomotor domains are not used as part of this assessment. This taxonomy was designed to be a sequential process. For example, one must remember before understanding and application take place. Bloom’s Taxonomy, as it is regularly known, is used in the formulation of this framework as a method of assessing the fulfillment of each category of processes while simultaneously providing an application benchmark for the educational theory used throughout this paper. Terms have been attributed to each of the six categories that link to each category in the taxonomy. A quantification of Bloom’s Taxonomy is done by enumerating the instances that any of terms contained in each of the six categories occur within an educational framework or instructional design. Certain terms in Bloom’s Taxonomy fall under more than one category. To avoid a duplication of counting the terms, the duplicated terms should either be avoided or the context in which they are used should be taken into consideration before categorizing. Bloom’s Taxonomy categories and associated



verbs used to identify and quantify training learning objectives are provided in the **Appendix**.

Autonomous counting, used to generate numbers of occurrences that stand on their own merit (Hannah and Lautsch 2011), was used to determine how closely the training goals and objectives followed Bloom's Taxonomy guidelines, a method which (Horner et al., 2011) implemented to evaluate the potential effectiveness of lesson plans designed for college courses. NVivo 12, a qualitative data analysis software, was used to identify the frequency of occurrence of each verb by level. The verbs were grouped into their corresponding Taxonomy categories and the distribution was assessed.

## RESULTS

This section presents the linkages from educational theory to proposed modules established in the previous section. The framework is summarized by categorizing the modules into lesson segments involving construction material information, project execution functions as they relate to the construction materials, and pre-construction activities so that the main points of the overall framework can be extracted, and ease of adoption can be achieved. The module template is then presented in a goals and objectives format so that material manufacturers can best and test the training proposal. This is followed by an assessment of training goals using Bloom's Taxonomy as the primary tool of assessment detailed previously.

### Framework Construction

**Figure 1** summarizes the overall framework by grouping the main lesson segments so that construction training designers may more easily adopt and modify the framework to best suite training participant needs.

The modules provide examples of goals and objectives written based on goal setting theory and SMART objective writing that provide direction and benchmarks for each module. At the conclusion of each module participants will be able to meet all objectives to ensure that the purpose of the

**TABLE 2 |** Bloom's taxonomy frequency by verb and category of training goals.

Module	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total
Remember										-
Define								2	2	4
Identify	3	3	1	3		4	2	1		17
List	1								1	2
Name								1		1
Relate	1			1	1	1				4
Select			1		4					5
State							1			1
Understand										-
Cite	1									1
Comprehend	1	2		2		3	3	2	1	14
Describe	1							3	3	7
Discuss	3				2	1		1		7
Identify	3	3	1	3		4	2	1		17
Suggest					1					1
Apply										-
Construct										1
Demonstrate		1		1						2
Document			1					3		4
Give examples		2		1		1	1	1		6
Practice					1					1
Show					3					3
Use		3	2	2	1		2			10
Analysis										-
Determine								1	1	2
Relate	1			1	1	1				4
Solve			1		2					3
Test						2	2	2		6
Evaluate										-
Assess								1		1
Evaluate				1			1			2
Select			1		4					5
Create										-
Organize									2	2
Perform						2				2
Total										135

training has been met and the required knowledge has been disseminated in an effective fashion. **Table 1** outlines the goals, objectives, materials needed, activities, UDL principles, and assessments used for all modules.

### Assessment

This section assesses the training framework by using the verb categories of Bloom's Taxonomy found in the **Appendix**. **Figure 2** presents the results of this assessment graphically and **Table 2** presents them explicitly. The connection of the framework to the principles of the Andragogy, The 70:20:10 Philosophy, and UDL are also presented.

Of the 135 terms counted in the training goals, 108 (80%) focus on LOTS. The results show the focus on LOTS corroborates the focus on introductory participants. Should a training be designed where it is known that participants have a basic understanding of the subject matter, HOTS should be the focus.

**Table 3** summarizes the connection from each module to the corresponding assumption(s) of andragogy that are presented in the Framework Construction section. The Role of Experience (RE) assumption of andragogy occurs most often in this study because the target audience of this framework is current industry

**TABLE 3 |** Connection of training modules to andragogy.

Training module	Assumptions of andragogy						Total
	SC	RE	RL	OL	IM	NK	
Product Chemistry		x				x	2
Understanding Product Portfolio		x	x		x		3
Material Selection						x	1
Installation Techniques	x			x			2
Group Scenario Activity		x		x		x	3
Troubleshooting		x				x	2
Hands—On Demonstration Assessment		x			x		2
Product Specifications		x	x				2
Pre-Construction Meeting	x	x		x			3
Total	2	7	2	3	2	4	20

**TABLE 4 |** Connection of training modules to the 70:20:10 principle.

Training Module	70:20:10 Principle		
	Experiential	Social	Formal
Product Chemistry			x
Understanding Product Portfolio	x		
Material Selection	x		
Installation Techniques	x		
Group Scenario Activity		x	
Troubleshooting	x		
Hands - On Demonstration Assessment	x		
Product Specifications		x	
Pre-Construction Meeting	x		
Total	6	2	1

**TABLE 5 |** Connection of training modules to UDL principles.

Training module	UDL principle multiple means of		
	Representation	Action and expression	Engagement
Product Chemistry	4		
Understanding Product Portfolio	2		
Material Selection	2		
Installation Techniques	3	1	
Group Scenario Activity	1		1
Troubleshooting	3		1
Hands—On Demonstration Assessment	2		1
Product Specifications	2		
Pre-Construction Meeting	2	1	
Total	21	2	3

professionals that possess work experience. The RE assumption is referenced seven times in the framework while all other assumptions are referenced two to four times. However, this study’s framework is for an introductory level of construction professionals in terms of the presumed exposure to construction materials involved in the training. The Readiness to Learn (RL) and Internal Motivation (IM) occur less often than all other categories because it is often the case

that these types of training programs are made mandatory by employers. To compensate for this, the focus is on the remaining andragogical learning assumptions.

Table 4 details the classification of each module under the 70:20:10 philosophy. As previously noted, 70% is of learning is derived through challenging assignments (experiential), 20% occurs through developmental relationships (social), and 10% occurs through formal training and coursework (formal). The table shows that 6/9 (67%) of the modules are classified as experiential, 2/9 (22%) are classified as social, and 1/9 (11%) is classified as formal, closely adhering to the recommended model.

Table 5 summarizes the connection from each module to the corresponding UDL Principles. Providing multiple means of representation occurs in 21 out of 26 UDL level references (81%) because of the importance of delivering the information to trainees in multiple formats. The Action and Expression category is noted twice in instances where there is a demonstration or installation activity in the module. The Engagement category is referenced three times in modules where it is necessary to interact with a group or directly with an instructor to provide trainees with multiple options for conveying their thoughts.

## CONCLUSION

This study created a framework for training construction industry workers on the subject of construction materials. This framework incorporates andragogy, UDL principles, and the 70:20:10 philosophy. Corresponding linkages to andragogy and UDL principles are established to each of the nine modules that collectively make up the framework presented. This culminates into a proposed template of goals and objectives that can be applied by construction material manufacturers interested in training construction stakeholders. Bloom’s Taxonomy is used to assess the framework presented to determine how closely the verbs correspond with the assumed audience. The focus on LOTS confirm that the training framework presented is suitable for introductory participants with 80% of the verbs falling into the LOTS category. The specific contributions of this research are for the first time: UDL, andragogy, and 70:20:

10 principles have been linked to construction workforce training, Bloom's Taxonomy was used as an assessment method to evaluate a proposed construction workforce training, and education theory has been embedded into a training proposed specifically for construction material manufacturers.

Through this study and the developed framework, construction material manufacturers are able to tailor material training programs for their products to better serve installers using these principles and theories for the first time; which in turn increases the sustainability of infrastructure leading to project success and lower cost in the long term. Whereas there is precedence in the literature for a presentation of construction training concepts and results, this study presents a detailed instructional design that material manufacturers can replicate. An opportunity exists to test the efficacy of the proposed framework by training construction stakeholders using this framework. A similar opportunity exists to develop a training framework using similar methodologies for participants who are

assumed to be more advanced where the focus of the training is terminology in the HOTS category.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

HJ conducted the literature review, collected and analyzed and developed the initial text. CF provided original ideas and advice on the overall project methodology and edited the text. CB proposed the research methodology and provided the conceptual design of this research. IN, CP, and YZ edited the text and provided regular feedback and guidance.

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## APPENDIX 1

Bloom's Taxonomy Categories and Associated Verbs (Anderson and Krathwohl 2001).

<b>Remember</b>	<b>Understand</b>	<b>Apply</b>	<b>Analyze</b>	<b>Evaluate</b>	<b>Create</b>
Choose	Arrange	Apply	Analyze	Appraise	Arrange
Define	Cite	Chart	Calculate	Assess	Assemble
Enumerate	Classify	Collect	Categorize	Choose	Collect
Identify	Comprehend	Compute	Compare	Compare	Compose
Indicate	Describe	Construct	Contrast	Contrast	Construct
Know	Discuss	Demonstrate	Criticize	Criticize	Create
Label	Explain	Document	Debate	Critique	Design
List	Explore	Dramatize	Detect	Decide	Formulate
Match	Express	Employ	Determine	Defend	Generate
Memorize	Extrapolate	Give examples	Diagram	Estimate	Integrate
Name	Generalize	Interpret	Differentiate	Evaluate	Organize
Omit	Identify	Investigate	Disassemble	Grade	Perform
Recall	Indicate	Operate	Distinguish	Judge	Plan
Record	Infer	Practice	Examine	Justify	Prepare
Relate	Interpret	Predict	Experiment	Measure	Produce
Repeat	Judge	Schedule	Inspect	Rate	Propose
Reproduce	Locate	Shop	Inventory	Reframe	Set up
Select	Manage	Show	Justify	Revise	Synthesize
State	Match	Sketch	Question	Score	
Underline	Paraphrase	Transfer	Relate	Select	
	Recognize	Translate	Separate	Value	
	Report	Use	Solve	Weigh	
	Represent		Subdivide		
	Restate		Test		
	Review				
	Show				
	Suggest				
	Summarize				
	Tell				
	Trace				
	Translate				