

Understanding

To accomplish the second level of critical thought, *Understanding*, English language learners connect facts they are learning with their own experiences and beliefs or those of people they know. This can be achieved through interactions with experts during site visits, with speakers invited to class, and during discussions on the topic with other students and the teacher using information from movies, Internet sites, books, or radio and television programs. Student activities that demonstrate understanding are:

- Reflecting on parallel situations in the past and present
- Asking and answering questions
- Using discussion to create connections between new and old information
- Looking for contradictions and explaining them