

Analysis Questions

BAR GRAPHS

Let's talk graphs. One of the skills important for students to learn is that of **interpreting visual information**. A graph is a key type of visual information. Graphs are widely used in science, mathematics, and social studies as they are one of the ways that we communicate information to one another. Graphs are used in the larger world to communicate preferences, budget figures, statistical information, sports results, and more. Bar graphs are used to share information that has different amounts.

Use **analysis questions** to help students learn to read and interpret bar graphs. Find examples of graphs and preplan questions for them. Put students in pairs and have students answer the questions as you call them out. Partner A would answer question 1, Partner B would answer question 2 and so on. The idea is to have students talk with one another about the material in the graph.

Use **preplanned questions** with graphs from the lessons you use. Now why bother to preplan? You'll ask better questions and more of them. You'll help students think more deeply.

I like to ask basic questions to make sure students pay attention to all the parts of the graph (e.g., title, units, etc.) as well as questions that require different levels of thinking.

Use preplanned questions with graphs from local newspapers. Use questions with graphs from web materials. The important thing is to use questions – as they help students learn to think about the visual information.

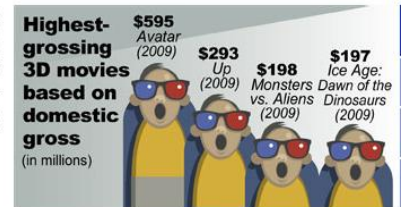
Select Research Notes

Bloom, B. S. (Ed.). (1956). *Taxonomy of educational objectives: The classification of educational goals – Handbook I: Cognitive domain*. New York: McKay.

Fisher, Douglas, & Frey, Nancy. (2007). *Checking for understanding*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.

Wahlstrom, Deborah. (2002). *Designing and using high-quality paper-and-pencil tests to improve student achievement*. Suffolk, VA: Successline Inc.

Moviegoers are flocking to 3-D movie screens. Note: Studios don't break out 3-D from 2-D; 3-D is about 65% of gross. Through Jan. 31, 2010.



By Anne R. Carey and Alejandro Gonzalez, USA TODAY
Source: Hollywood.com

NBC plans more coverage of the 2010 Games than the previous two Winter Olympics combined.



By Anne R. Carey and Sam Ward, USA TODAY
Source: www.aroundthings.com; NBC Universal

Many adults say they have experienced supernatural phenomena.



By Anne R. Carey and Veronica Salazar, USA TODAY
Source: Pew Research Center survey of 4,013 adults in Aug. 2009