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# Computational Thinking for Dummies!

How to Incorporate Logical Problem Solving into Health Science Classes  
(and Other CTE Classes)



# Agenda



- 
- Ice Breaker Activity & Spark Activities~ Introduction of Computational Thinking Concepts
  - Phases of Analysis: Pre-analytical, Analytical, Post-analytical phases
  - Infusion of Computational Thinking into Lessons
  - Algorithmic Formatting Models and tools for computational thinking in YOUR classroom!
  - Q&A
  - Final Tips & Take-a-ways

# Human Ingenuity Fuels CTE Training Algorithms

Computational  
Thinking is a  
step-by-step  
process to  
identifying  
issues and  
solving  
problems...  
AKA  
Common sense



Human Ingenuity Fuels Computational Thinking Processes

Pre-analytical phase  
(Prep & Plan)

# Analysis

Analytical phase (Ponder)

Post-Analytic Phase (Practice)





**Preparatory & planning stage that occurs first, very early in the introduction of the topic:**

# Pre-Analytical Phase

# Pre-Analytical Phase

## Prime the student for learning

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- This phase is where the instructor **opens lesson** among students and outlines the topic to be learned.
- Readings, **vocabulary/ terminology** is introduced.
- Games, activities, discussions, and other hands-on tasks are great **ice breaker** for new information.
- Allows the instructor to **informally evaluate** what students know about the topic
- Allows students **to generate questions, allows the class to bond**, and sets the tone for the lesson.
- The pre-analytical phase must have **basic and fun topic foundation measures** to avoid or limit processing errors later with more complex ideas.

# Spark Activity


## What the Cup???

### Serious Hand Play

### Timed Activity

Can you complete the task three times in a row???

[https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2 Lesson 04 Student Template.m4v](https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2_Lesson_04_Student_Template.m4v)

A doctor in a white coat is using a tablet computer. The doctor is holding the tablet with their left hand and a blue pen with their right hand. The background is a blurred hospital setting with blue lighting. The text is overlaid on a white rectangular area on the left side of the image.

# Computational Thinking Processes

**A step-by-step process to achieving a specific goal by identifying patterns and solving problems.**





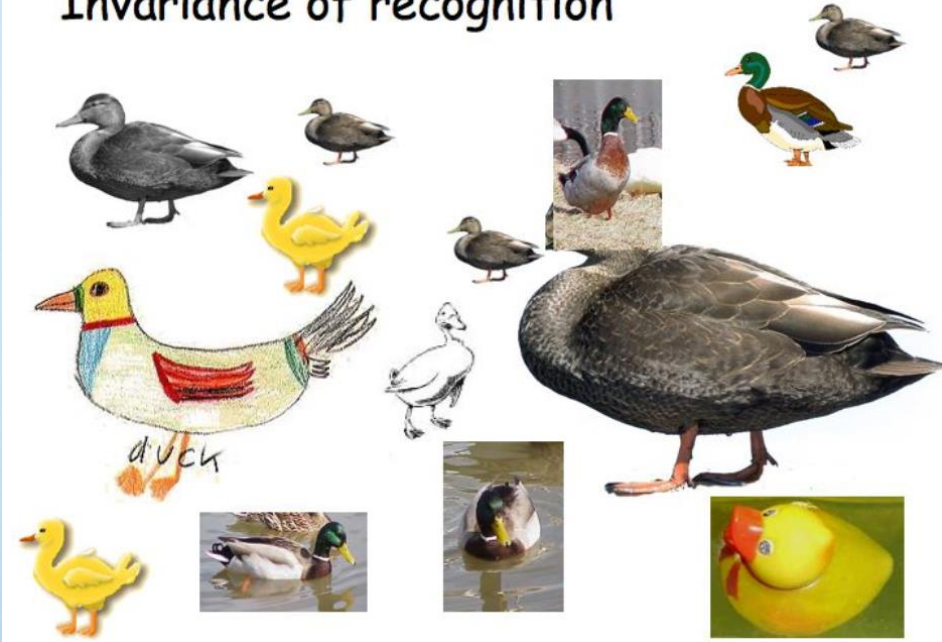
# Identification

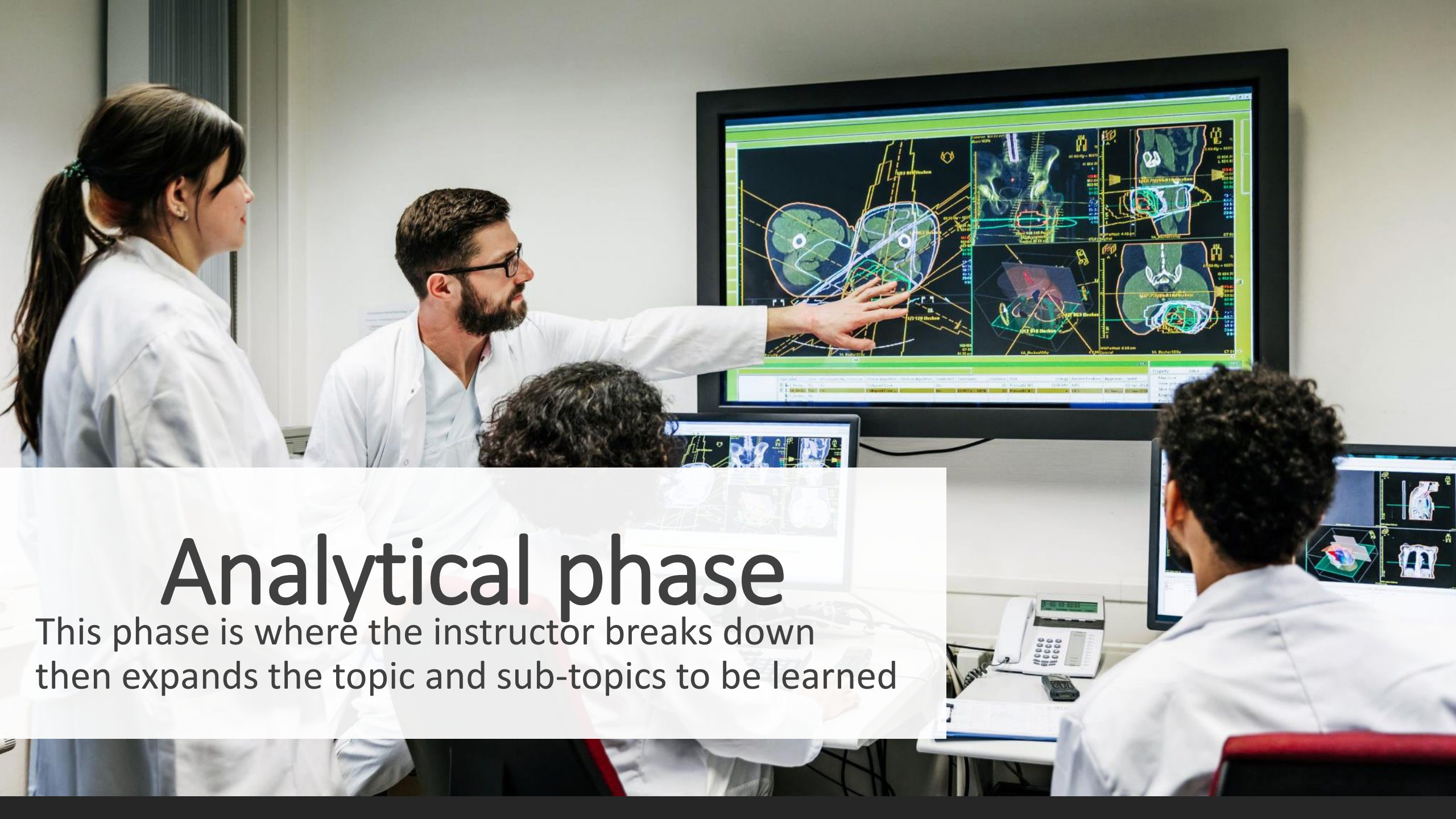
Naming the task, problem, or goals to be addressed or achieved.

# Recognition

The ability to collect and analyze data, realize patterns, similarities, or connections between the different parts of the task and successful completion, preferences are formed

Invariance of recognition





# Analytical phase

This phase is where the instructor breaks down then expands the topic and sub-topics to be learned

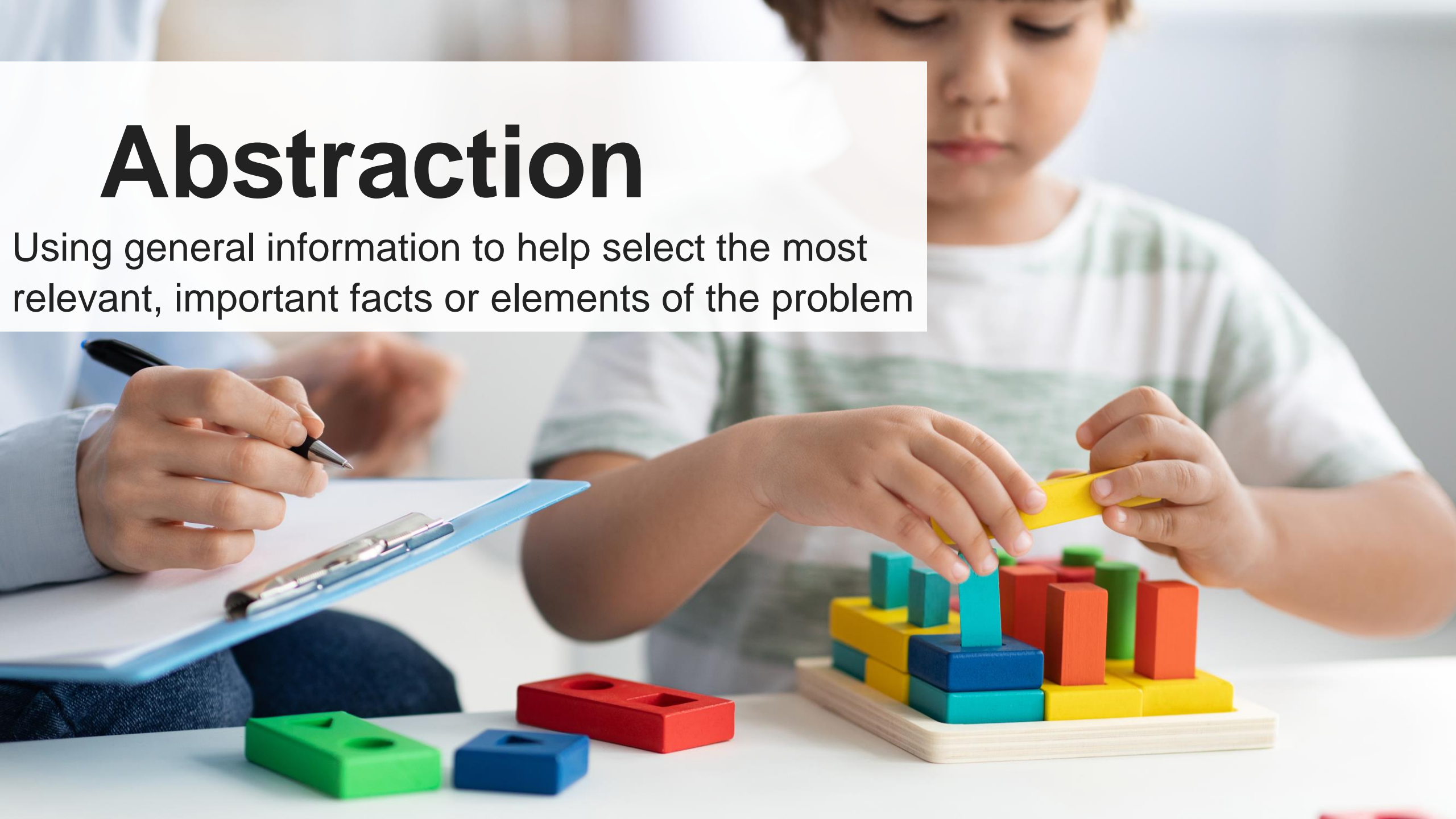
# Analytical Phase

- ✓ During this time readings, **vocabulary/ terminology** is **used** for games, activities, discussions, and other hands-on tasks for greater understanding of the new topics.
- ✓ This allows the instructor to **formally evaluate what students know about the topic**, allows students to generate **higher-level questions**, allows **student leaders** to emerge, and **advances the mission** for comprehending the lesson.
- ✓ The analytical phase must have **rigorous topic exploration** measures to avoid processing errors later with more complex ideas.



# Abstraction

Using general information to help select the most relevant, important facts or elements of the problem





# Decomposition

The process of dividing up a topic, task or system into the smaller parts...sub tasks, sub problems, subgoals, achievement levels

# What the Cup?? Serious Hand Play Timed Group Activity

Can you complete the task three times in a row???

[https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2 Lesson 04 Student Template.m4v](https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2_Lesson_04_Student_Template.m4v)

# Making the Algorithm-

Designing the process of creating a precise step by step plan/  
procedure/directions to achieve a particular outcome

- What are **noted** as challenges?
- Why are they challenges?
- What patterns did we **recognize**?
- How do we **breakdown** the process?
- What are **important elements** of the task?
- How do we **craft** the instructions?
- Other options for completing the task!







# Write Down the Steps

[https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2 Lesson 04 Student Template.m4v](https://education-static.apple.com/ecc-get-started-with-code-2-20170421/video/2_Lesson_04_Student_Template.m4v)



## Section 1:

- Clap hands X2
- Bang desk X4
- Clap hands X1
- Grab cup with right hand
- Tap/slap cup on the table

## Section 2:

- Clap hands x1
- Grab cup with right hand
- Tap the top of the cup with left hand
- Flip cup up with right hand
- Hit cup bottom on table
- Switch cup to left hand
- Tap table right hand
- Tap table with cup in left hand crossing over the right hand

# The Computational Thinkers

## concepts



### Logic

Predicting & analysing



### Evaluation

Making judgements



### Algorithms

Making steps & rules



### Patterns

Spotting & using similarities



### Decomposition

Breaking down into parts



### Abstraction

Removing unnecessary detail



## approaches



### Tinkering

Changing things to see what happens



### Creating

Designing & making



### Debugging

Finding & fixing errors



### Persevering

Keeping going



### Collaborating

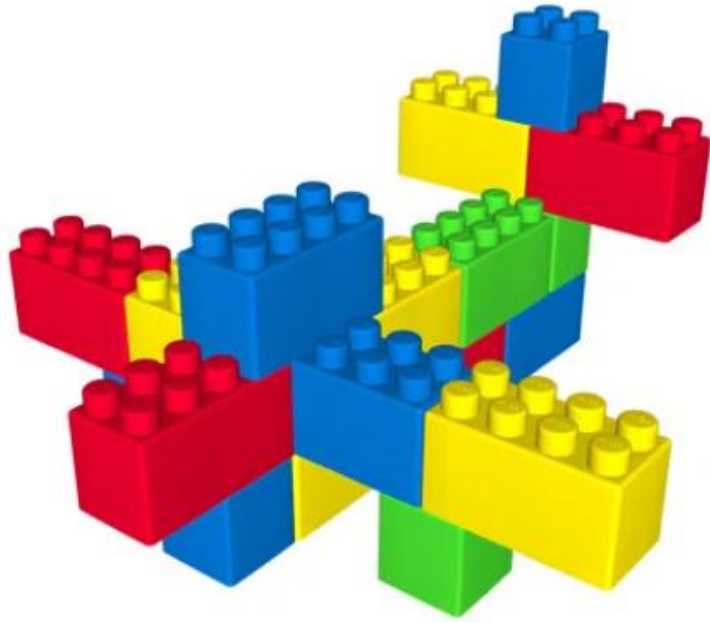
Working together

# What the Duck???

## Serious Toy Play

### Timed Group Activity

- **Confidence-Building Strategies With Toys**
- **Meaningful Discussion**



Make each group make a Lego duck



No technology, no collaboration  
between teams



Complete task, take a picture, make  
note completion time, then submit to  
presenter

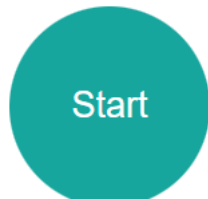
What the Duck??...SHHH It's a Secret!  
Serious Duck Play Timed Group Activity

Timer

Stopwatch

00:00:00.00

SPLIT TIME



Settings and sounds



Show shortcuts

# Timer

<https://www.timeanddate.com/stopwatch>

Timekeeper must record completion times

# Ducking Ridiculous

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Which one is correct??

Why? Or why not?

Which do you prefer?

Why?



# Get the Duck Out of Here!

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Remove:

- The lame ducks
- The sitting ducks
- The Quacks

Recreate:

- The prize ducks



**A**



**B**



**C**

# Making the Algorithm-

**Designing the process of defining a precise step by step plan/  
procedure to achieve a particular outcome**

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- Challenges with the task
- Strengths of your design/instructions
- Details about process
- Other options for completing the task
- Which duck is correct?
- Why?
- Participant bias vs preference





## Creating Effective Step By Step Instructions



# Algorithmic Formatting:

## Talk to your duck!

What the Duck are You Talking About?

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<https://change.walkme.com/step-by-step-instructions/>

# Post Analytic Phase

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**The concluding stage that occurs last in the presentation of new topics.**

**This phase is where the instructor confirms what the students learned.**

Students should now **be able to “teach” or demonstrate** what they learned.

**Students can make games, activities, lead discussions,** and participate in other hands-on tasks as a demonstration of what they retained.

Allowing students to teach/present info to their peers allows the instructor to formally evaluate what students **understand about the topic and address any misconceptions.**

**Debugging-** talk through the process

# No Algorithm = Outcome Variations





A



B



C



Escape room

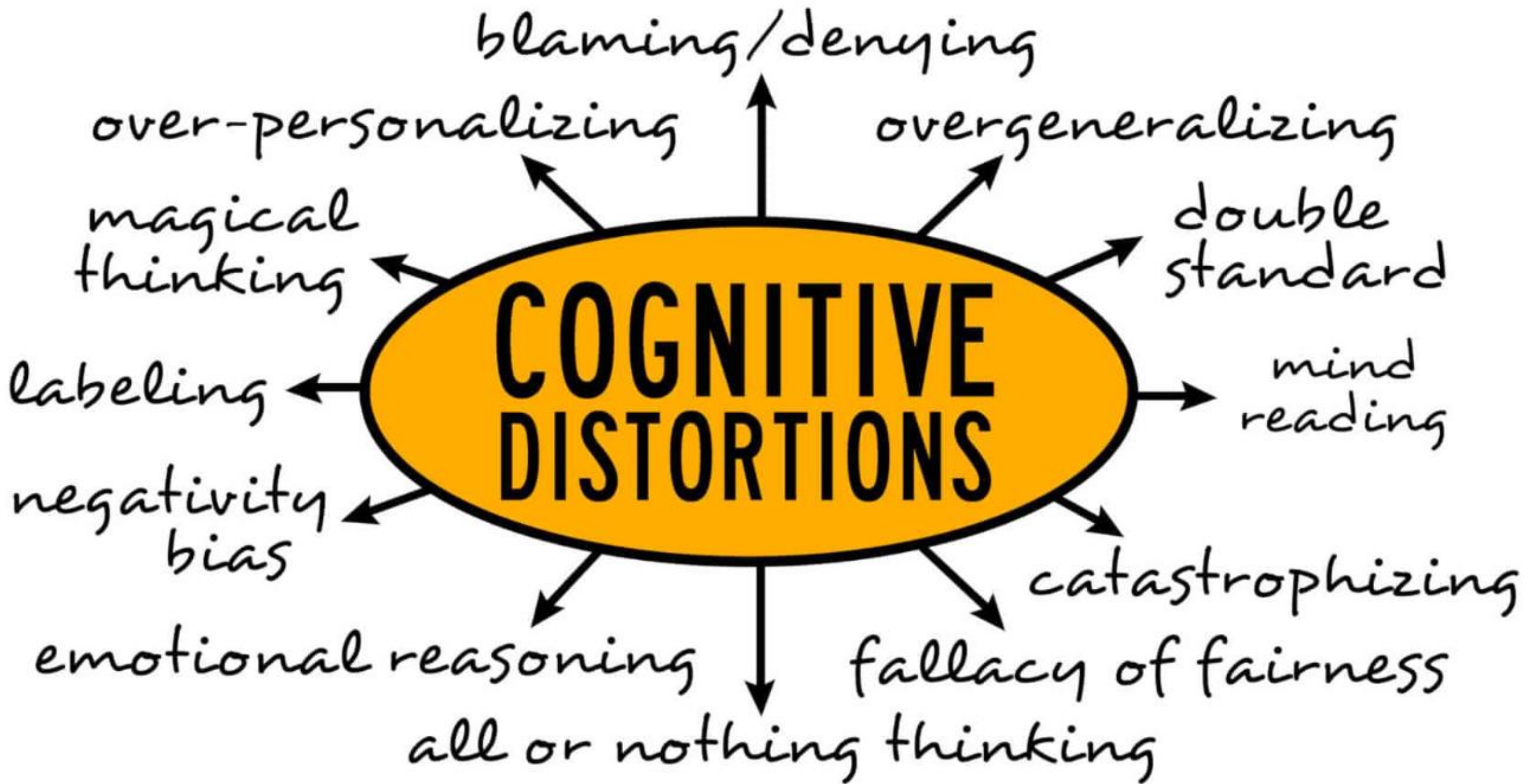
Timed clinical skills

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Student led demonstrations

Timed group vitals



# Duck, Duck, Goose

## Bias -vs- Preference

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**Preference** is a greater fondness or liking for one appropriate alternative over others.

**Bias** is a disproportionate emotional thinking that is in favor of or against a person, place, idea, or thing.

**Catastrophizing** is also thought of as making mountains out of molehills. When something negative happens, no matter how small, a person who catastrophizes blows the situation out of proportion and will view the situation as terrible or dreadful, even though the reality is that the problem itself is quite small.

**Black And White Thinking** is also known as all-or-nothing thinking, as people who use this distortion tend to see only one extreme or the other. They may view things as either right or wrong and good or bad without seeing the shades of grey in between.

CTE instructors must make sure preferences do not morph into biases by teaching more than one approach to meeting objectives and solving problems so students can learn situational decision making.

# Computational Thinking Processes

A cognitive skill that:

- **Uses problem-solving techniques** that imitates the process computer programmers go through when writing computer programs.
- CT encourages students to **approach ANY and ALL solutions to problems in a systematic manner.**
- **The approach is in simple terms,** simple enough to be understood and executed by a person without experience or with limited experience.



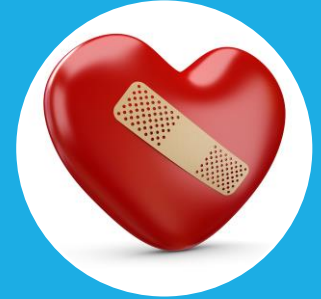
Exploring and analyzing problems thoroughly to fully understand them



Using precise and detailed language to outline both problems and solutions



Applying clear reasoning at every stage of the process



Testing and debugging can ensure that solutions remain fit for purpose or can be adjusted for the current situation.







# Computational Thinking Vocabulary Review

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**Abstraction-** is using general information to help select the most relevant, important, information or elements of the problem

**Algorithm-** designing the process of defining a **precise step by step plan/ procedure** to achieve a particular outcome

**Analytical phase** is the second stage of understanding a topic. This phase is where the **instructor expands the topic and sub-topics to be learned, debugging**

**Bias** is a disproportionate emotional thinking that is **in favor of or against a person, place, idea, or thing.**

# Computational Thinking Vocabulary



**Computational Thinking (CT)**- is a cognitive skill that uses **problem-solving techniques** that imitates the process computer programmers go through when writing computer programs (common sense)

**Decomposition**- the process of **breaking down a topic, task or system into the smaller parts**...sub tasks, sub problems, subgoals

**Identification**- **Naming the task, problem, or goals** to be addressed.

**Preference** is a **greater fondness or liking** for one appropriate alternative over others.

# Computational Thinking Vocabulary

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**Post-analytical phase** is the concluding stage that occurs last in the presentation of new topics. This phase is where the instructor **confirms what the students actually learned & ID's new problems.**

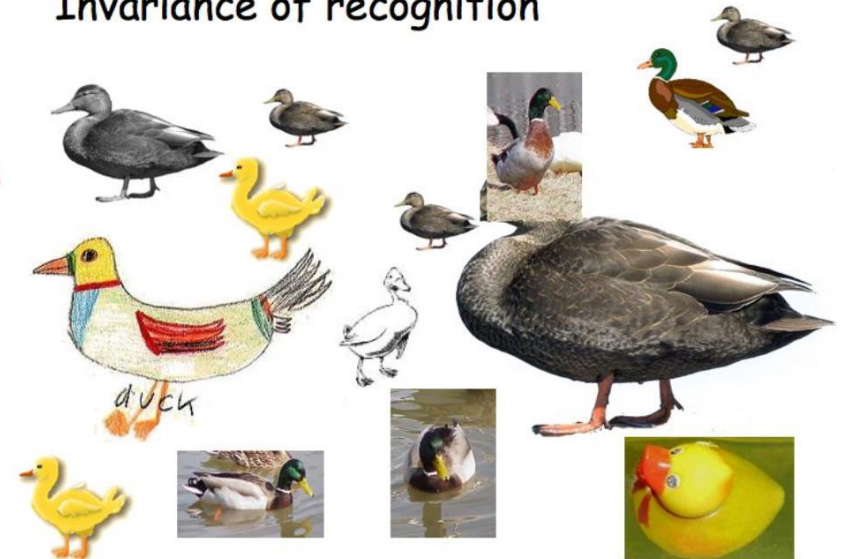
**Pre-analytical phase** is the preparatory stage that occurs first. This phase is where **the instructor opens and outlines the topic to be learned.**

**Recognition-** the ability to **collect and analyze data, realize patterns,** similarities, or connections between the different parts of the task and successful completion, preferences form



# Computational Thinking Vocabulary

Invariance of recognition



# Final Tips & Takeaways

## We're Not Ducking Around!

### Pre-Analytical (PREP/ PLAN)

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- Fun low stakes activities that spark thinking
- Sets the foundation

### Analytical (PONDER)

- ID's solution options
- Misconceptions addressed
- **Abstraction, decomposition, recognition, identification**

### Post- Analytical (PRACTICE)

- Students have acquired some or all of topics covered
- Debugs solutions
- Effective loops
- Teach others

### Cognitive Thinking Process

- Step by step process to solving problems & meeting objectives

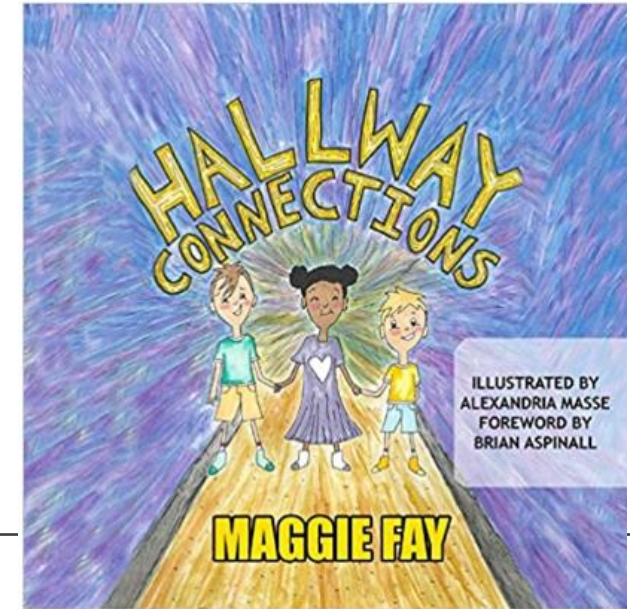
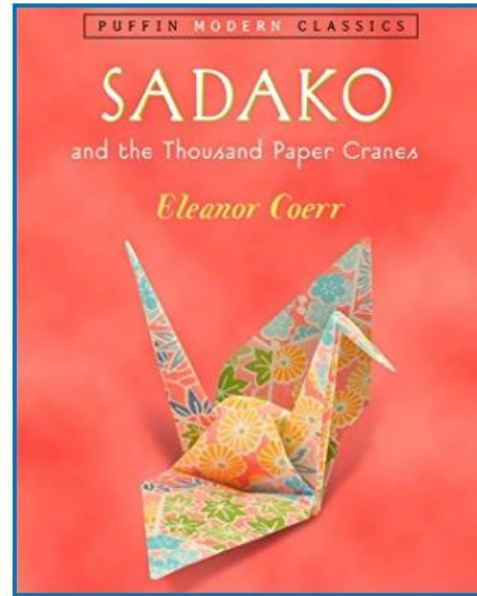
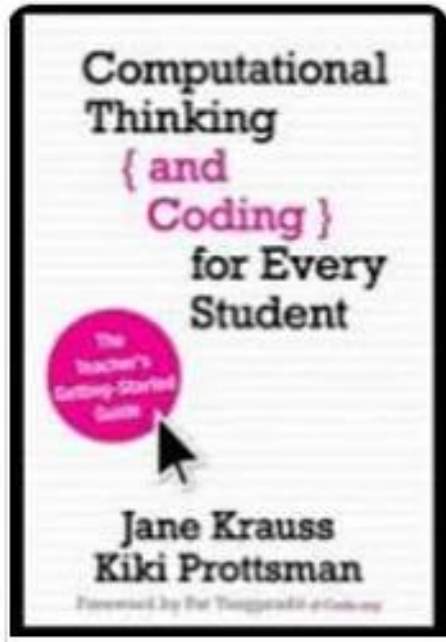


# Q&A

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# Reading List



1. Computational Thinking {and Coding} for Every Student, J. Krauss and K. Prottzman
2. Sadako, E. Coerr
3. Hallway Connections, M. Fay

# Websites to Check Out:

CS UnpluggedLinks

<https://classic.csunplugged.org/>

Code.org

<https://code.org/>

Hello Ruby

<https://www.helloruby.com/>

Teaching London Computing

<https://teachinglondoncomputing.org/>

<https://iste.org/standards/computational-thinking-competencies>

University of York:

<https://online.york.ac.uk/what-is-computational-thinking/>

Boom

<https://www.boommindset.com/blog/revolutionizing-medical-education-innovative-teaching-techniques>





# Websites to Check Out:

What Are Cognitive Distortions and What to Do About Them?

<https://youthtimemag.com/what-are-cognitive-distortions-and-what-to-do-about-them/>

Cognitive Bias: How We Are Wired To Misjudge

<https://www.simplypsychology.org/cognitive-bias.html>

Build a Duck

<http://legoengineering.com/build-a-duck/>

Blood flow Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-wilmN80XE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbmWLXpL0Aw>



Thank you!



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