## Analyzing a Task or Project for Cognitive Complexity

Examine the scenario in the following table, and answer the questions. Then, compare your answers to the authors' responses.

| **Scenario:** Students will group pictures of prehistoric animals based on similar characteristics. | |
|---|---|
| **Level of Cognitive Complexity** | What is this task's level of cognitive complexity? |
| **Ways to Raise the Cognitive Complexity** | What are some ways to increase the level of thinking for this task? |
| **New Level of Cognitive Complexity** | What is the new level of cognitive complexity? |

## Authors' Responses

Compare your answers to the authors' responses to the scenario questions.

### *Level of Cognitive Complexity*

This assignment is on the Understand level of the revised Bloom's taxonomy using the classifying cognitive process.

### *Ways to Raise the Cognitive Complexity*

To challenge students toward deeper learning:

- Students could brainstorm a new animal that could have survived along with the other prehistoric animals. They would need to consider the habitat and survival characteristics.
- Students could then use an online or software paint program to draw their animal and then import that picture into a presentation program like Prezi.
- Students then could record themselves explaining how their animal could best survive among the other animals making a PreziCast with the help of a screen-capturing program like Screencast-O-Matic (www.screencast-o-matic.com) or ScreenFlow (www.telestream.net/screenflow).

### *New Level of Cognitive Complexity*

This task or project would raise the assignment to the Create level on Bloom's revised taxonomy. Students would engage in the generating cognitive process as they brainstormed possible animals that would be able to survive. They would be carefully rejecting many ideas that wouldn't work. Students would be thinking using the planning and producing cognitive dimensions as they drew their animal and justified in their presentation how it would best survive in that environment.