

# Ranking Ladder



Provides all students with an opportunity to engage in thinking at the *evaluation level* of Bloom's taxonomy.

A Ranking Ladder requires students to place items on rungs of a ladder in order from least to most important, as a group activity it allows students to be challenged as to why they rank one item above or below another.

- Hand out a sheet of paper, a marker and a list of items to be ranked to each group/individual.
- Ask each group/individual to draw a ladder on a full page, the number of rungs equal to the number of items to be ranked.
- Students should discuss the items to be ranked and explain the criteria and justification for the placing of each item.
- Place the item considered the least important on the bottom rung of the ladder.
- Continue placing items on the ladder until all items have been ranked and agreed upon by the group.
- The ranking ladders can then be displayed in the classroom and form the basis of a whole class discussion.

## Tips

- Assign one person from each group as the recorder.
- Be clear on how you want the items to be ranked.
- Move around each group to ensure they are on task.
- Pre-prepared laminated ranking ladders could be a useful resource to be used in future classes.
- Blank rungs could be added to the ladder to encourage student initiative in adding additional items to the ladder.

### Further Information

Further reading and support on implementing this strategy is available on [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)

## Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Working with others
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being creative

## Resources

- ▶ A sheet of A4/A3 paper or Ranking Ladder template
- ▶ List of items to be ranked

## Room Layout

Arrange students around tables in groups of 4

## Assessment

Assess for higher order thinking skills by listening to student responses

## Supporting Homework

Students could be invited to take a photo of the Ranking Ladder and the notes taken by the recorder to support homework and revision

