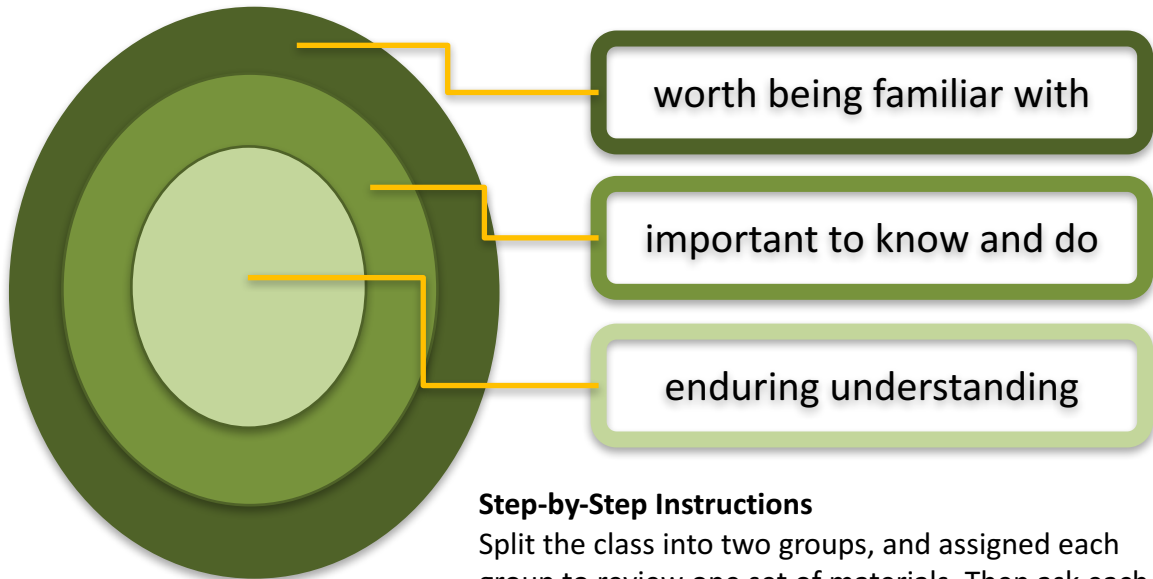


# Circles of Impact

Novices have difficulty discerning levels of importance within discipline knowledge. While these students may diligently study content and try to retain all of it, they may not be successful if they are unable to identify what content and ideas are worth knowing. To better assess whether students are appropriately assigning value to some content areas over others, use the Circles of Impact activity to ask students to organize content into three categories: worth being familiar with, important to know and do, and enduring understanding.



## Step-by-Step Instructions

Split the class into two groups, and assigned each group to review one set of materials. Then ask each group to classify the key points in the materials into one of the three circles:

- Worth being familiar with
- Important to know and to do
- Enduring understanding.

Give them half the class period (roughly 40 minutes) to complete this assignment. Once they have assigned all the terms or concepts into one of the three circles, ask the first group to share their results with the class. Members of the other group and I challenge them to justify why each term or concept is assigned to the circle noted. This forces the presenting group to rethink or reaffirm their rationale. As a class, the goal is to come to one set of conclusions.

**Resources:** *Understanding by design*. Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe. Alexandria, Va.: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, c1998.

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