

What's TV got to do with DOK?



While working in Ohio, Barb Cockroft and **Tom Rounds**, (two PD providers), shared that they had come up with different TV game shows for each DOK Level. I loved the idea and of course that got me thinking about which shows I'd use to illustrate the differences among DOK levels.

I've always used **Jeopardy** as an example to illustrate DOK 1 – quick recall of unrelated facts, locations, and names. But do we ever hear host, Alex Trebek follow up with, “Let’s talk about the theme of that play?” or “What has been the impact of that world leader?”

Nope.

DOK 1 is just the facts! There is always a right answer & you either know it or you don't!

So what TV shows would I use for DOK 2, 3, and 4?

I think **The Price is Right** works well for DOK 2. To play that game, you apply basic prior knowledge of pricing to estimate and compare prices. There is still a right answer, but you need to make some decisions along the way as you do some mental arithmetic. You play this (routine) game pretty much the same way every time.

And what about **NCIS** or those **CSI** shows for DOK 3? Rich DOK 3 performance tasks are kind of like solving a mystery - looking for compelling evidence to support conclusions or to build a defensible argument. Each episode presents a non-routine case and solving it requires answering more complex questions than those posed on shows like **Jeopardy** or **The Price is Right**.

Finally, there is DOK 4, requiring extended thinking and integrating multiple, relevant sources - sometimes to understand a topic in greater depth, or from multiple perspectives, or to create a new product or model. For me, it's gotta be all of those **Ken Burns' documentaries**: Baseball, The Civil War, The Roosevelts...and the list goes on. To produce a documentary takes more than the speed of IBM's Watson at uncovering facts. Checking credibility of sources and determining relevance of information is only the first step to integrating or synthesizing information, making connections among Bigger Ideas, and producing a message that is compelling. Now, that's DOK 4!