Introducing the Big6™

Presented by

Mike Eisenberg

The BIG6™

1 task definition

2 information seeking strategies

3 location and access

4 use of information

5 synthesis

6 evaluation

The BIG 6

Why This is Important…

1 task definition

2 information seeking strategies

3 location and access

4 use of information

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Information Literacy

The new "*basics*" of the 21ˢᵗ century

task definition

information seeking strategies

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synthesis

evaluation

Information Literacy

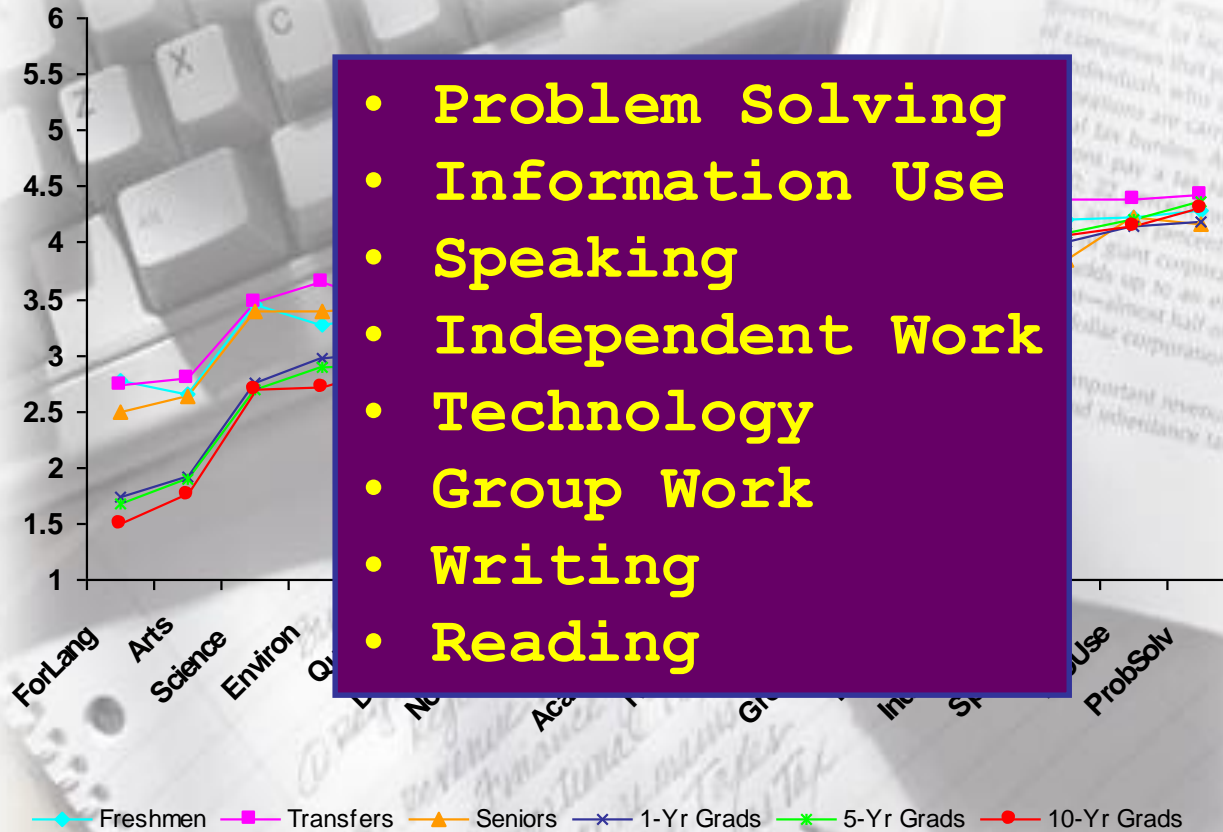"To be information literate, a person must be able to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information."

American Library Association, 1989

Survey of Valued Skills

- **Problem Solving**
- **Information Use**
- **Speaking**
- **Independent Work**
- **Technology**
- **Group Work**
- **Writing**
- **Reading**

Freshmen   Transfers   Seniors   1-Yr Grads   5-Yr Grads   10-Yr Grads

Complied from annual surveys by UW Office of Educational Assessment,
www.washington.edu/oea/reports/student_alumni_surveys.html

For the Youngest
The Super3
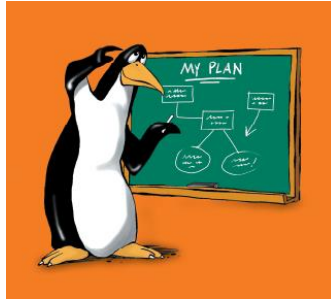
Beginning Plan

Middle Do

End Review

The Big6™ Skills

1. Task Definition

2. Info Seeking Strategies

3. Location & Access

4. Use of Information

5. Synthesis

6. Evaluation

task
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The BIG 6

The Big6™ Skills Model of Information Problem-Solving

1. **Task Definition:**

   1.1 Define the problem.
   1.2 Identify the information needed.

2. **Information Seeking Strategies:**

   2.1 Determine all possible sources.
   2.2 Select the best sources.

3. **Location and Access:**

   3.1 Locate sources.
   3.2 Find information within sources.

4. **Use of Information:**

   4.1 Engage (e.g., read, hear, view).
   4.2 Extract relevant information.

5. **Synthesis:**

   5.1 Organize information from multiple sources.
   5.2 Present information.

6. **Evaluation:**

   6.1 Judge the result (effectiveness).
   6.2 Judge the process (efficiency).

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task
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Task Definition

1.1 Define the problem

1.2 Identify the information needed

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Information Seeking Strategies

2.1 Determine all possible sources

2.2 Select the best sources

brainstorm & narrow

Location & Access

3.1 Locate sources

3.2 Find information within sources

index

Use of Information

4.1 Engage (read, hear, view)

4.2 Extract relevant, quality information

relevance

Sidebar navigation:
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Synthesis

5.1 Organize

5.2 Present

medium & message

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Evaluation

6.1 Judge the result

6.2 Judge the process

effective & efficient

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Developing Big6™ Understandings

Worksheet 3-2—Literal Level: Identify the Big6™

In the space provided, indicate which of the Big6™ Skills students are using when they perform each of the following activities:

TD	=	Task Definition
ISS	=	Information Seeking Strategies
L&A	=	Location & Access
UI	=	Use of Information
S	=	Synthesis
E	=	Evaluation

When a student:

_____ 1. chooses between an encyclopedia and a magazine for information on the political situation in the Middle East.

_____ 2. creates a weekly classroom newsletter about freedom movements in the world.

_____ 3. interviews a long-time community resident about local history.

_____ 4. assesses the presentations of other students.

_____ 5. uses *PowerPoint* to create a multimedia show about holiday celebrations in other cultures.

_____ 6. reflects on personal information skills that need improving.

_____ 7. uses appropriate Yahoo or Alta Vista commands.

_____ 8. evaluates the effectiveness of different specific media (e.g. political ads, car commercials, video vs. audio, etc.).

_____ 9. writes a thesis statement.

_____ 10. finds word definitions in a dictionary.

_____ 11. answers questions using a textbook.

_____ 12. selects a specific topic for a science fair project.

Themes of

1 task definition

2 information seeking strategies

3 location and access

4 use of information

5 synthesis

6 evaluation

The BIG6

Themes of the Big6

1. The Big6 process can be applied in all subjects, with students of all ages, and across all grade levels (K-20).

2. The Big6 is an adaptable and flexible; it can be applied to any information situation.

3. Technology skills take on meaning within the Big6 process.

4. Using the Big6 is not always a linear, step-by-step process.

5. The Big6 process is necessary and sufficient for solving problems and completing tasks.

6. The Big6 is an ideal approach for integrating information literacy learning with all subject area curricula at all grade levels.

7. The Big6 provides a common vocabulary for "metacognition" – that helps everyone talk about how they learn and solve problems.

Themes of the Big6 (p. 14)

1. The Big6 process can be applied in all subjects, with students of all ages, and across all grade levels (K-20).

The Big6 is not just for kids.

Sidebar:
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Themes of the Big6

2. The Big6 is adaptable and flexible; it can be applied to any information situation.

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Lesson: The Big6 in Everyday Contexts

- buying a birthday gift
- deciding what movie to attend
- finding out if somebody likes you
- choosing colleges or careers
- making a banana split
- Bobby starting a band
- _____???

Themes of the Big6

3. Technology skills take on meaning within the Big6 process.

Exercise

Word processing	
Search engines, electronic indexes, online library catalogs	
Spell/grammar check	
Brainstorming software	
Blogs	
Presentation software (PowerPoint)	
Email	

Technology in Context

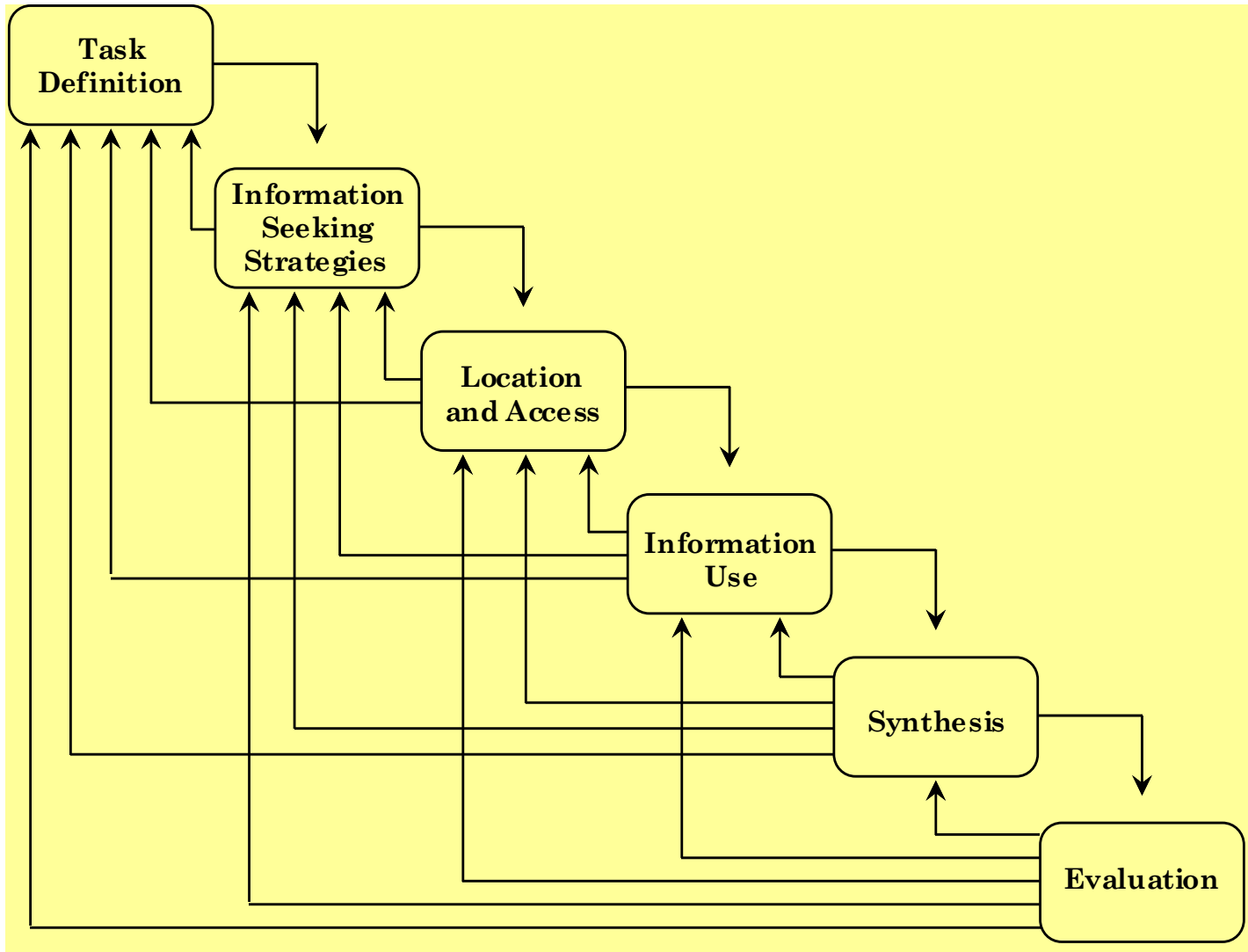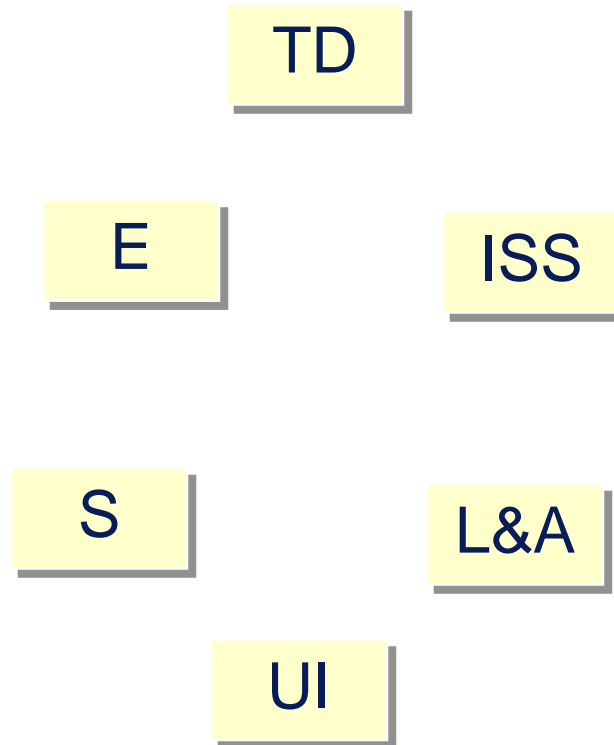|	
Task Definition	Brainstorming software; Email
Info Seeking Strategies	Search engines, electronic indexes, online library catalogs; Blogs
Location & Access	Search engines, electronic indexes, online library catalogs
Use of Information	Presentation Software; Blogs
Synthesis	Presentation Software
Evaluation	Spell/grammar check; Email

Themes of the Big6

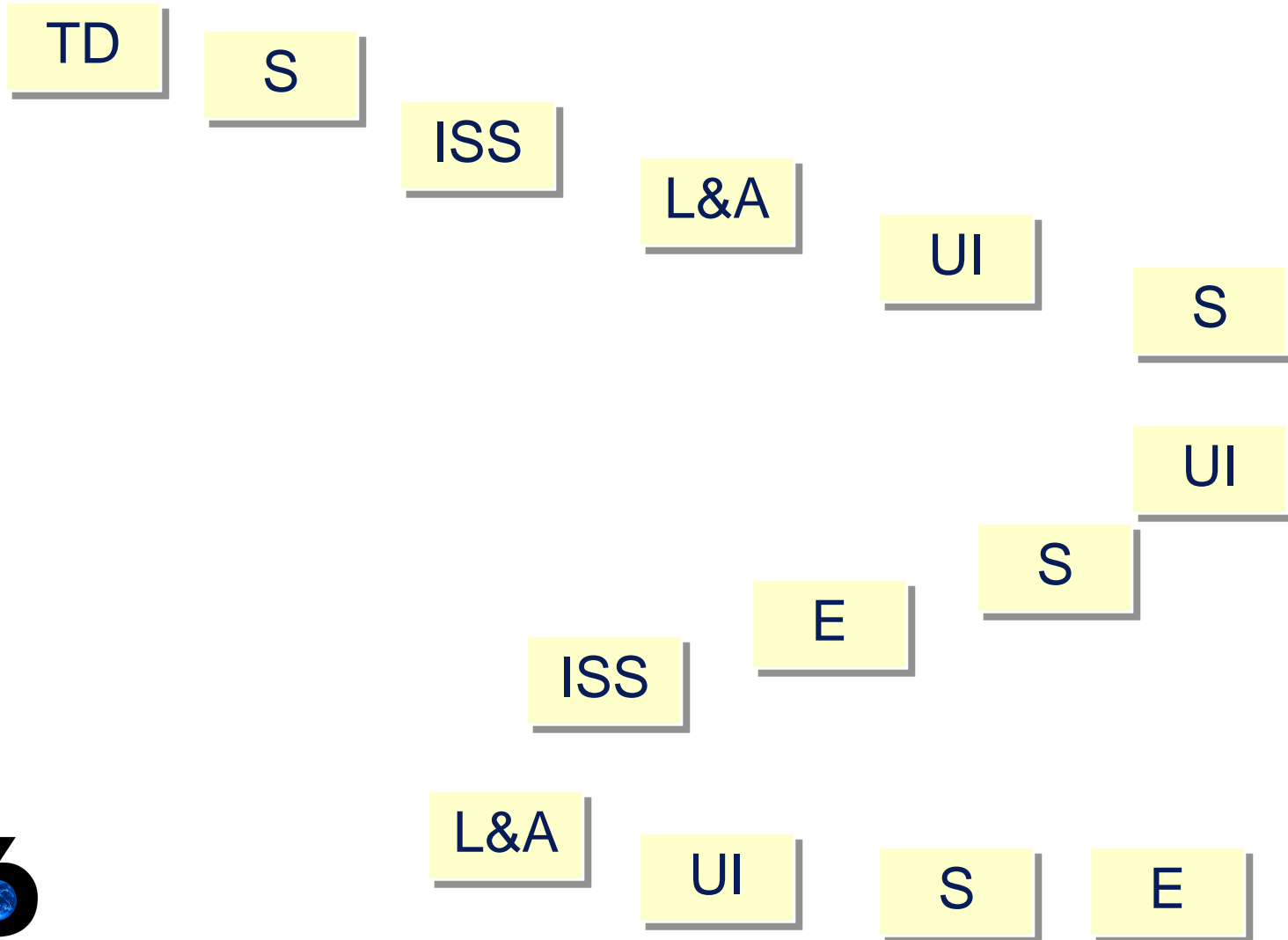## 4. Using the Big6 is not always a linear, step-by-step process.
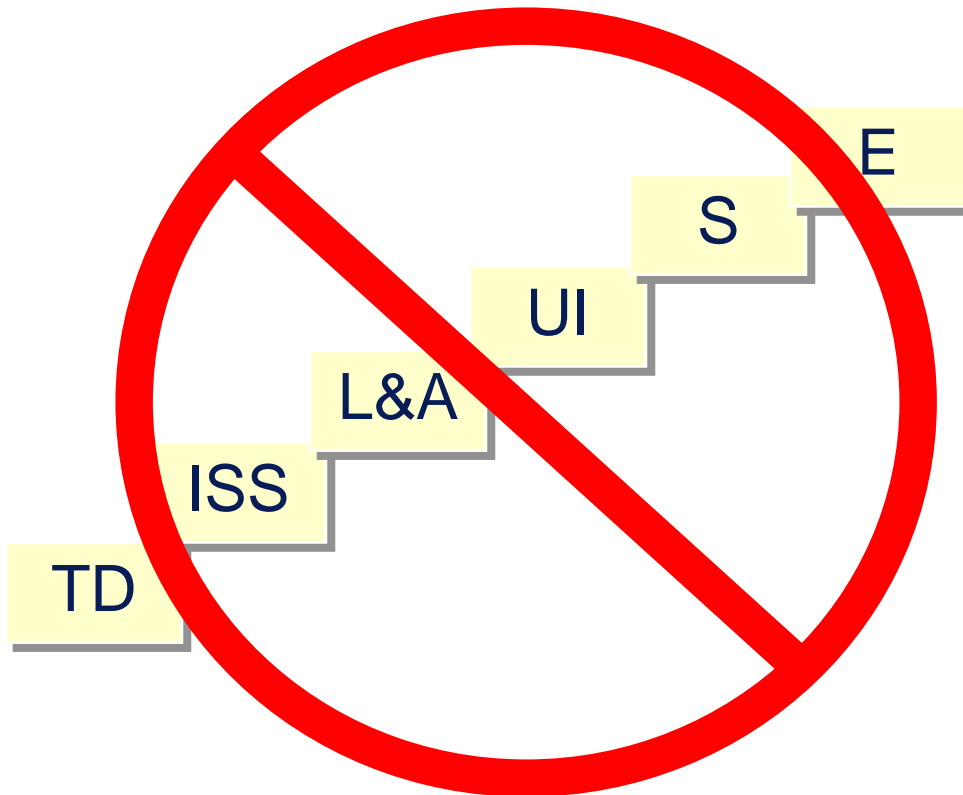
The Big6: Not Linear

The Big6: Non-Linear

TD

E   ISS

S   L&A

UI

The BIG 6

The Big6: Not Linear

TD

S

ISS

L&A

UI

S

UI

S

E

ISS

L&A

UI

S

E

The BIG6

Themes of the Big6

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5. The Big6 process is necessary and sufficient for solving problems and completing tasks.

The Big6™ Skills
Necessary and Sufficient

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Themes of the Big6

6. The Big6 is an ideal approach for integrating information literacy learning with all subject area curricula at all grade levels.

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Themes of the Big6

7. The Big6 provides a common vocabulary for "metacognition" – that helps students (and teachers and parents) talk about how they learn and solve problems.

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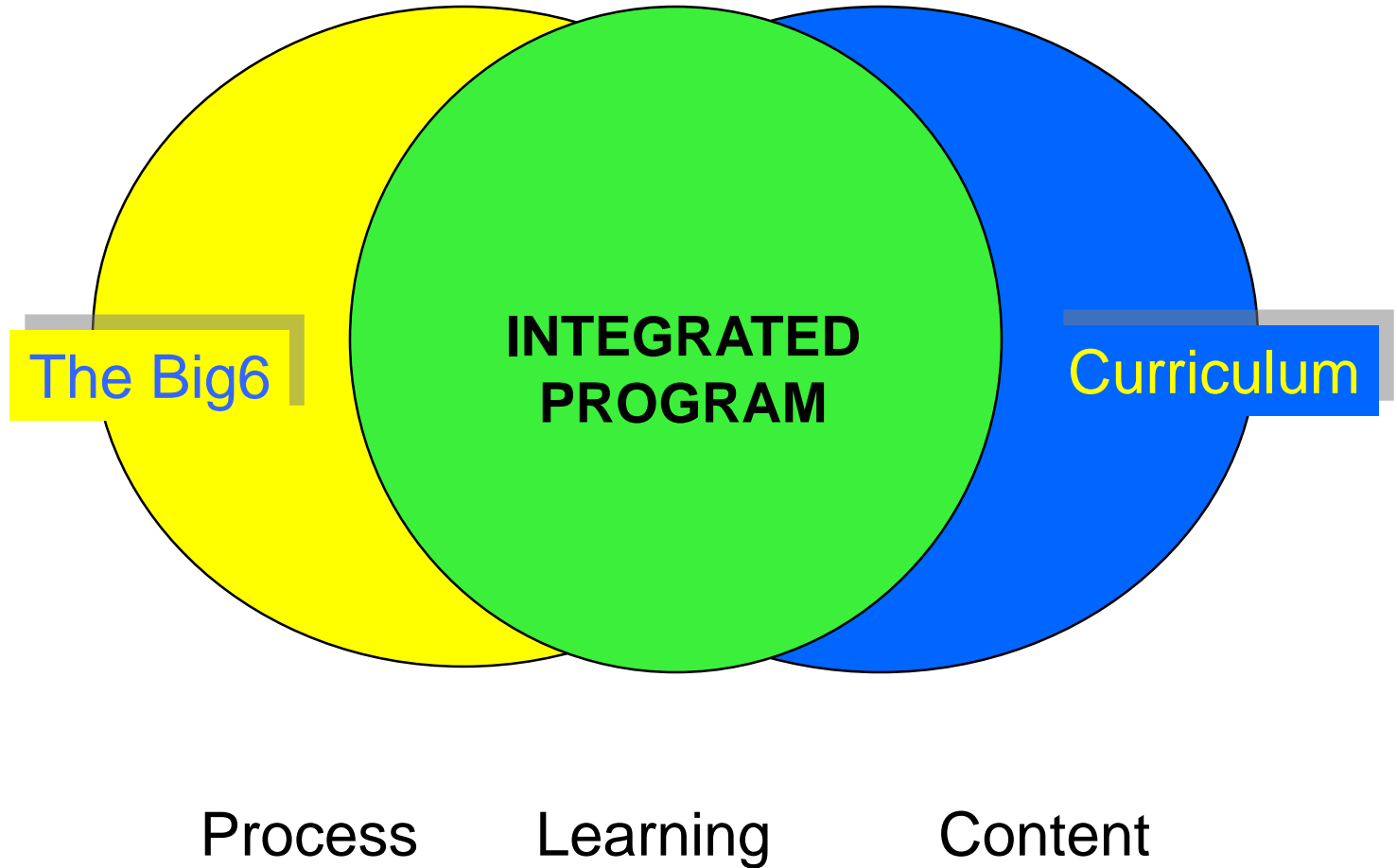5 synthesis
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Learning does not happen by chance... it has to be carefully thought out and planned.

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Context

Sidebar:
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- #1 - the process
  - Not isolated skills; within a problem-solving process (e.g., the Big6)

- #2 - technology in context
  - not isolated technologies; within a problem-solving process (e.g., the Big6)

- #3 - curriculum
  - connected to assignments
  - standards
  - state tests

Why Big6?

- Big6 = information literacy.

- Can implement immediately!

- Matches state standards & district learning goals and objectives.

- Provides consistent Information & Technology Skills instruction K-20.

- Can implement immediately!

www.big6.com

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All Big6 resources available from:
www.big6.com