



## Portfolio Activity 2.4

# DETERMINING LEVELS OF CONCRETENESS AND ABSTRACTNESS

### Materials Needed:

- A copy of Dale's Cone of Experience (Figure 2.4)

- A. What follows is a list of a number of strategies for teaching about recycling. Rank each strategy's level of abstraction on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being very concrete and 5 being very abstract).
1. Watching a television documentary about landfill problems.
  2. Watching the teacher sort aluminum, glass, and plastic into three recycling bins.
  3. Visiting a recycling center.
  4. Burying a piece of plastic, a glass cup, a banana skin, a piece of bread, and an aluminum can; watering the items weekly; and periodically uncovering the items to see if they are decomposing.
  5. Painting a poster to promote recycling.
  6. Writing a rap song about recycling.
  7. Coloring a picture about the ways to limit litter (reuse, recycle, reduce).
  8. Starting a compost in the school playground.
  9. Arranging in sequence pictures about how long it takes some items to biodegrade.
  10. Reading a newspaper article about recycling.
  11. Listening to a guest speaker from the local recycling center.
  12. Writing a story about the future if people fail to solve landfill problems.
  13. Creating a poem about recycling.
  14. Sorting items from the school lunch into aluminum, glass, and plastic bins.
  15. Starting a school paper recycling program.
  16. Keeping track of the amount of waste produced in the classroom for the week and estimating how much would be produced in a year.
  17. Role playing what to do if a friend drops a candy wrapper on the ground.
  18. Looking at photographs of landfills.
- B. Convene with some of your classmates to share your rankings of the teaching strategies. Try to come to a consensus about the rankings.
- C. Obtain a variety of teacher resources and activity books. Look in them for lessons to teach about plant growth. In your portfolio, make a list of lessons, activity ideas, or investigations that would be more concrete than the ones in the books. How could you make any abstract strategies more concrete?