

4 B.E.L.S.©
4 Brain Essential Learning Steps©

Use the 4B.E.L.S. with any subject or topic. The formula is a teaching strategy that engages students in the learning process from BELS 1 to BELS 4. There are many applications for the formula that are available for you to click when you find something of interest.

This is how it works:

BELS 1 - This is the introduction to the learning unit, theme, specific curricular content or subject. The fact-finding begins here.

BELS 2 - List the activities on your mind map that reinforce the theme, topic, concept you are teaching – This step should include visual, auditory and kinesthetic exercises. Brainstorm and list ideas related to the main topic. The ideas include each student's understanding of the topic, each student's personal knowledge and experience on the topic, and each student's evolving ideas for a working plan as each student builds ideas on the contributions of the members in the class.

BELS 3 – It is time to plan how to use the information introduced and learned. This step requires the student to interpret the facts and concepts for application. The focus in this step is why this information is relevant to the class and to each of its members. Relevance is basic or more abstract depending upon the content and the goal of the lesson. It is always necessary to have students clarify the meaning of the information for a specific purpose that is personally relevant. Gather the facts and information together as a group and develop a plan for action. Plan for action suggestions are: original skits, journal writing, presentations, through dance, through music, through art displays or through combinations of all these suggestions. Each student's strengths are represented in developing the plan.

BELS 4 – It is time to use the information and implement the plan. Should we create a bulletin board display? Should we make costumes, scenery, props for a show? Are we presenting to an assembly of other classes? Parents? Community groups? School parade? Class museum? School display? The possibilities are as numerous as our imaginations will take us!