

# UX Design

MIS3506 \* Lavin \* Fall 2020

# What are the Gulfs?

The distance between the mental representations (conceptual model) of the user and the physical components and states of the environment.

**Gulf of execution** is the difference between the intentions of the users and what the system allows them to do or how well the system supports those actions (Norman)

**Gulf of evaluation** is the degree to which the system/artifact provide representations that can be directly perceived and interpreted in terms of the expectations and intentions of the user (Norman)

# Gulf of Execution

Trying to figure out how something operates





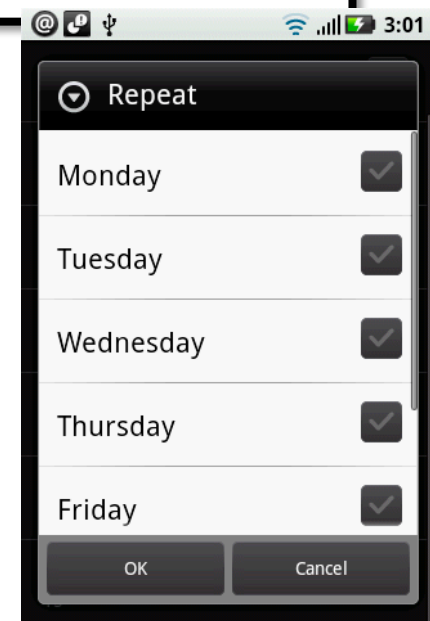
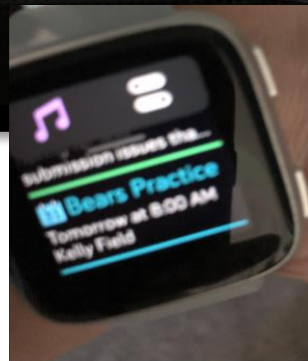
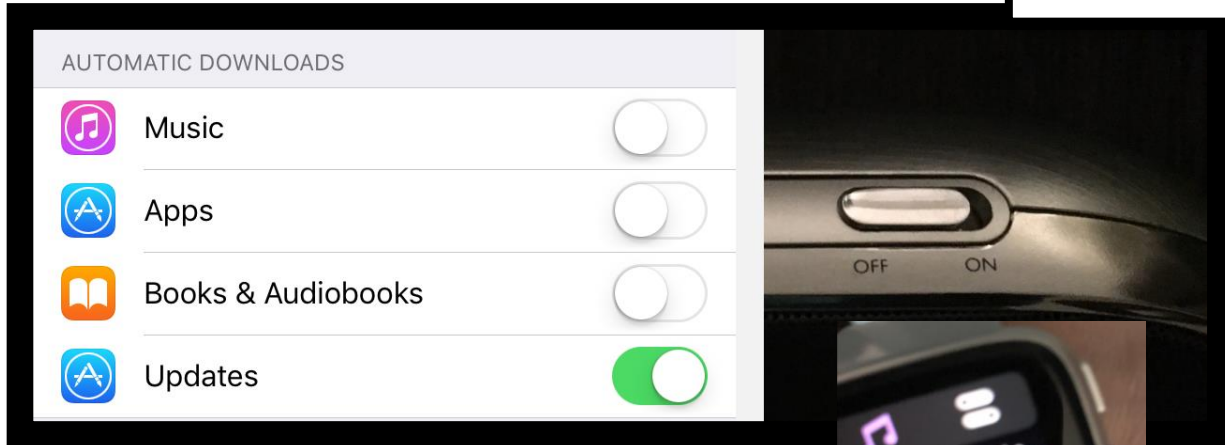
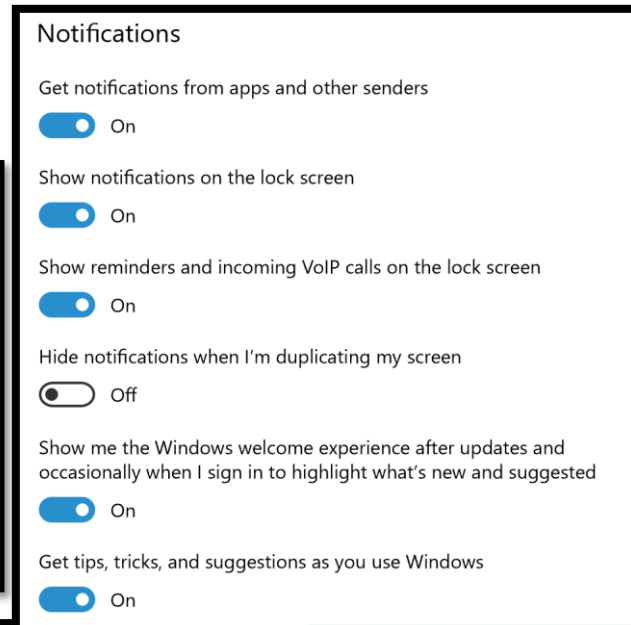
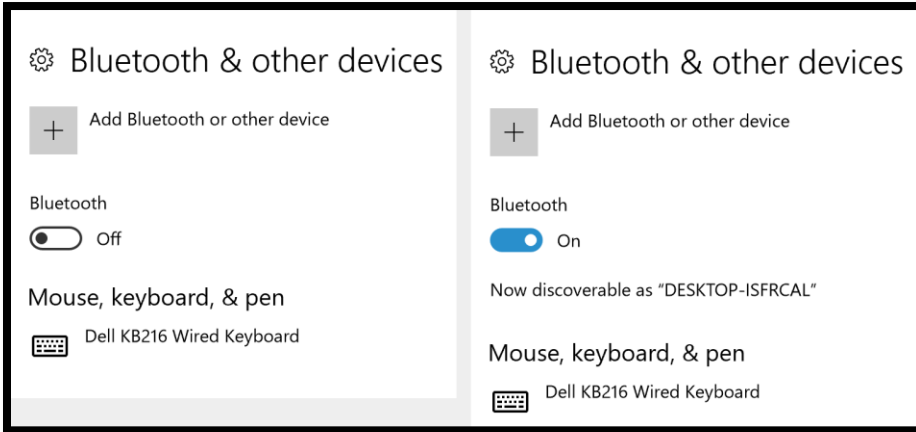
# Gulf of Evaluation

Trying to figure out what happened

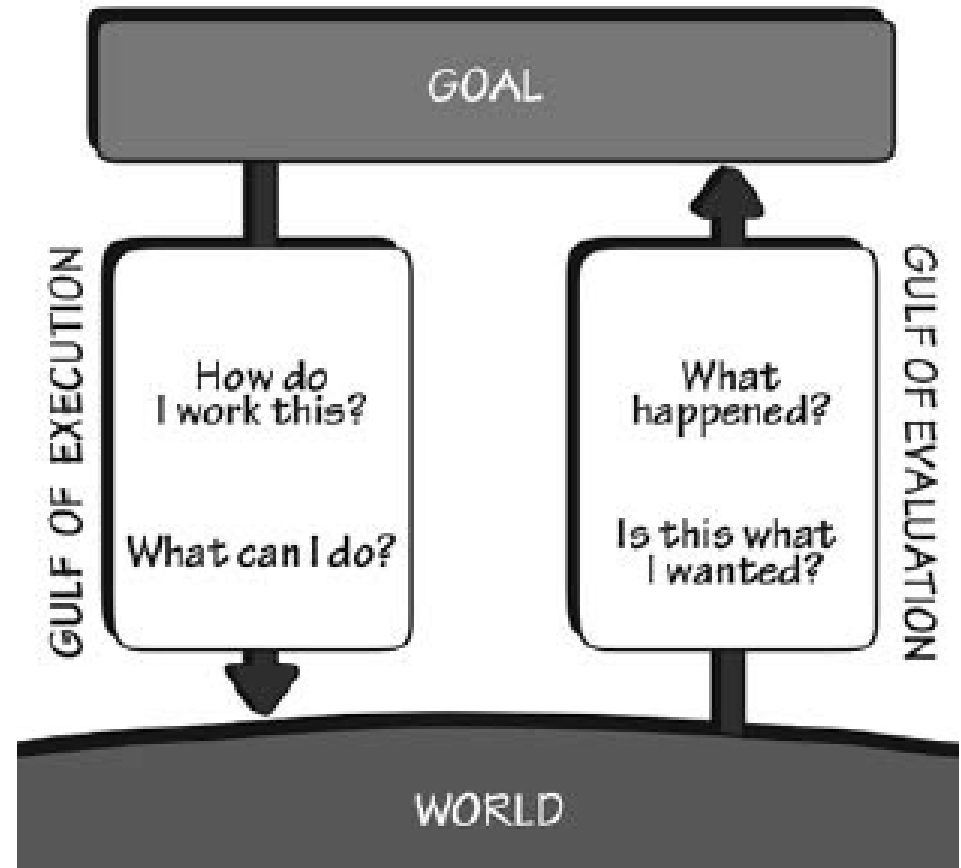


# Designer's Role...

Be the bridge



*avoid the gulfs!*





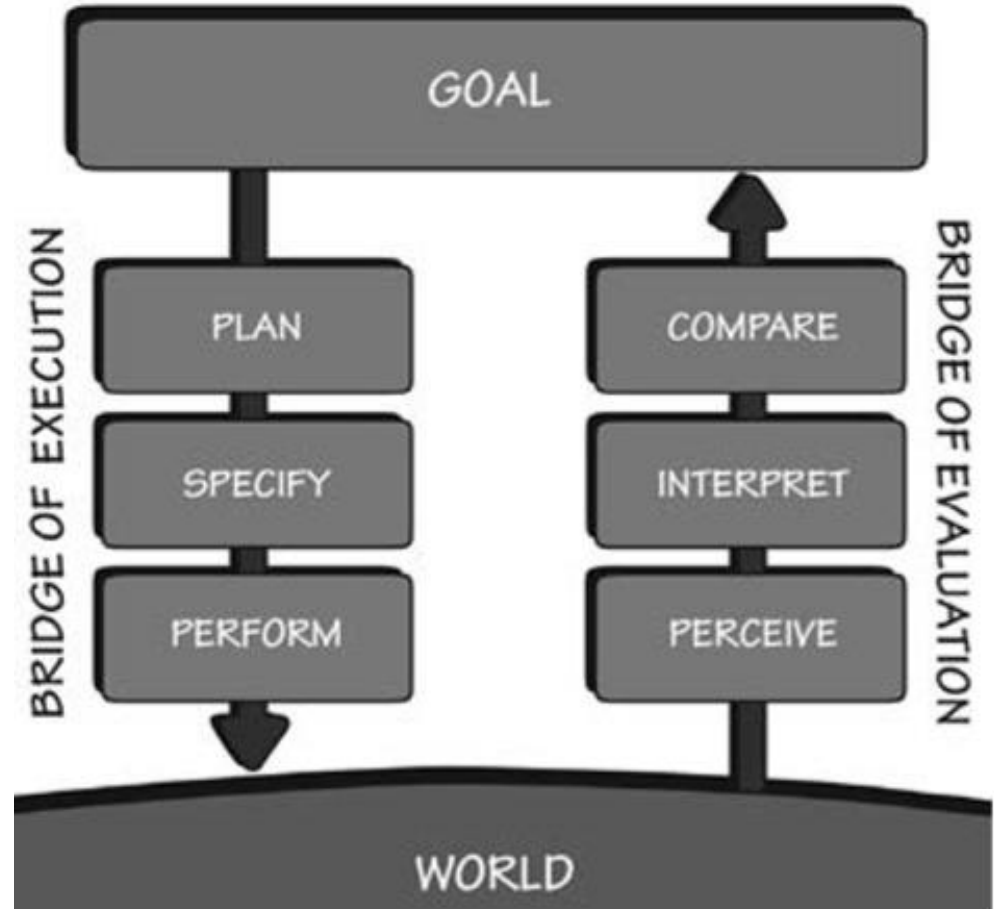
# 7 Stages – Deleting an Email

Think through the steps you take to delete an email.

*Now – let's think through it with the lens of Norman –*



# Seven stages of action

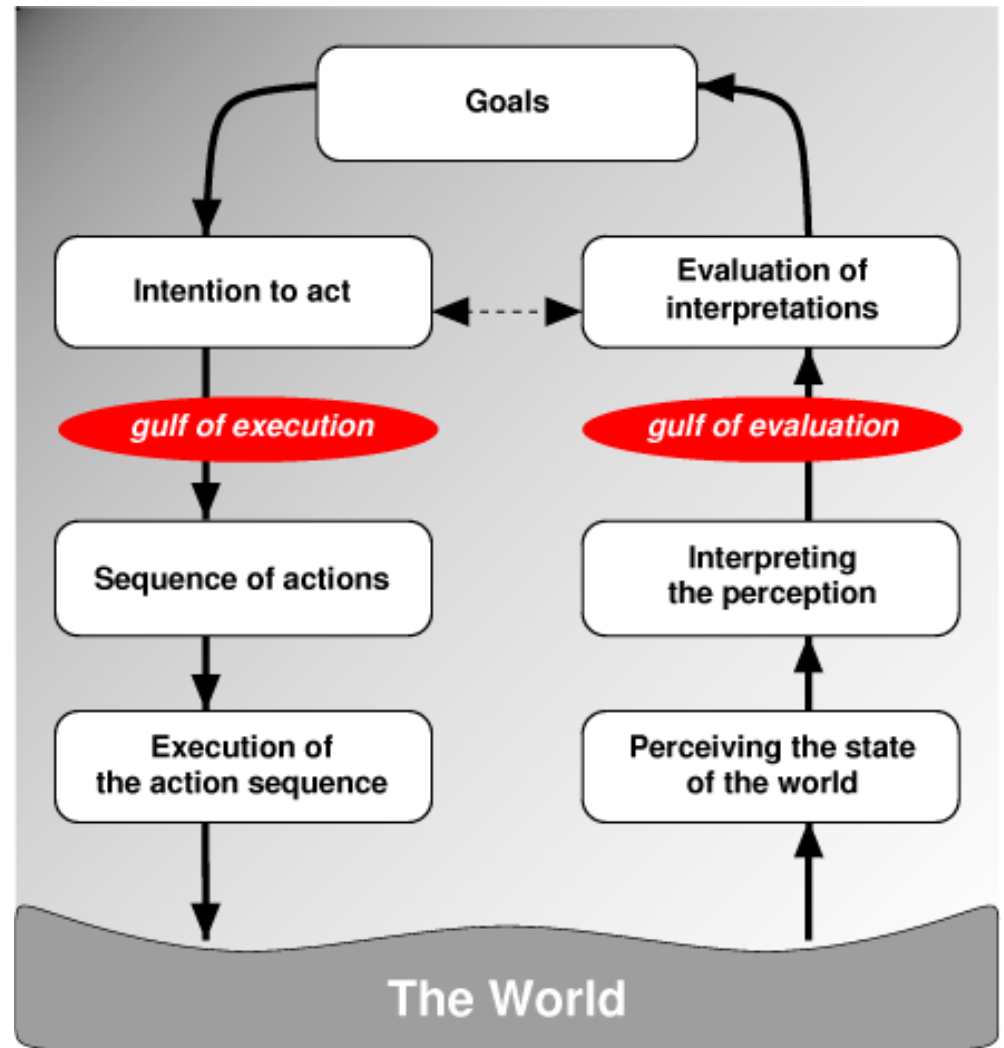


# 7 Stages - Deleting an Email



Putting it  
together

*avoid the  
gulfs!*



# Advice to the Designer

1. Provide Visibility of System Status
2. Meet the Conceptual Model of the User
3. Consistency in presentation of operations and results through signifiers
4. Provide good Mapping
5. Provide full and continuous feedback

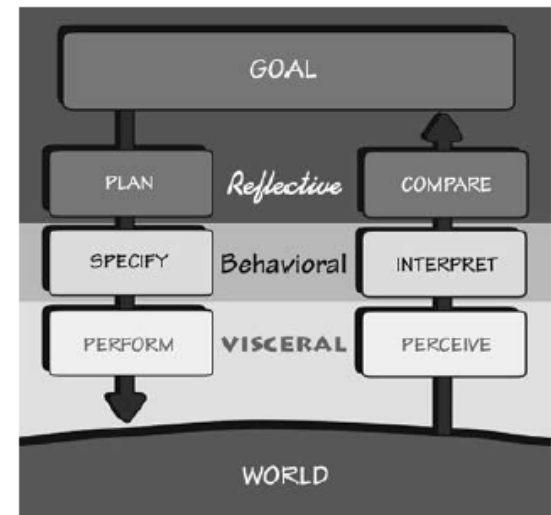
# Why is this so hard?

## Human thought

- Subconscious: fast, automatic, daily skilled behavior
- Conscious: slow, controlled, limited, infrequent

## Processing

- Reflective - thinking
- Behavioral - actions
- Visceral- 'lizard brain'



# Three Levels of Processing



REFLECTIVE



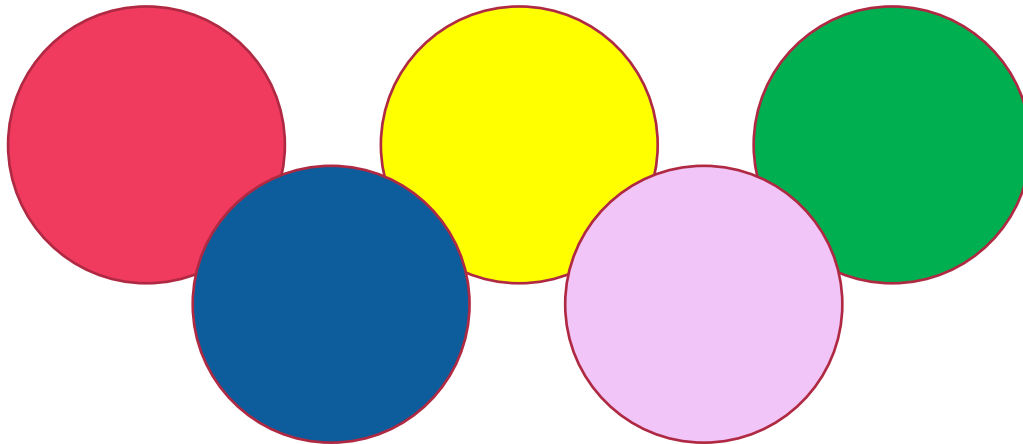
BEHAVIORAL



VISCERAL

# Three Levels of Processing

- ❑ Most basic level of processing
- ❑ Quick judgements about the environment
- ❑ Respond quickly and subconsciously – without awareness or control



VISCERAL

# Three Levels of Processing

- ❑ Home of learned skills and triggered by situations that match appropriate patterns
- ❑ Every action is associated with an expectation



BEHAVIORAL



Effective  
design  
satisfies

Shape and form

Cost and efficiency

Reliability

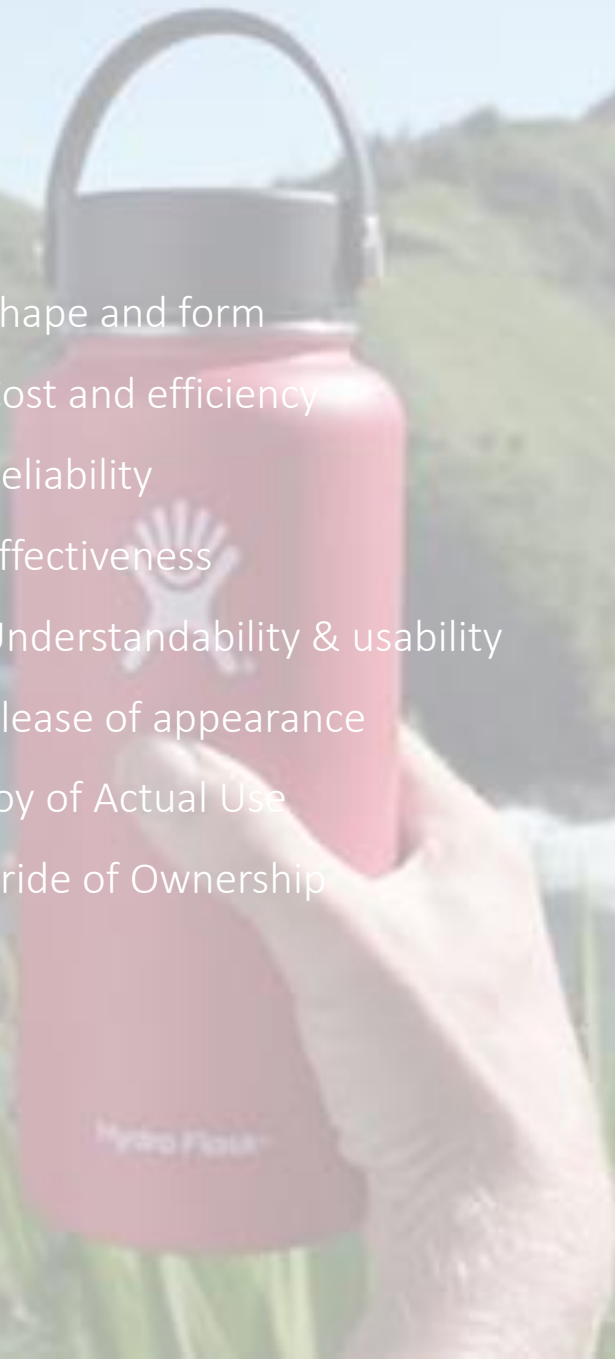
Effectiveness

Understandability & usability

Pleasure of appearance

Joy of Actual Use

Pride of Ownership

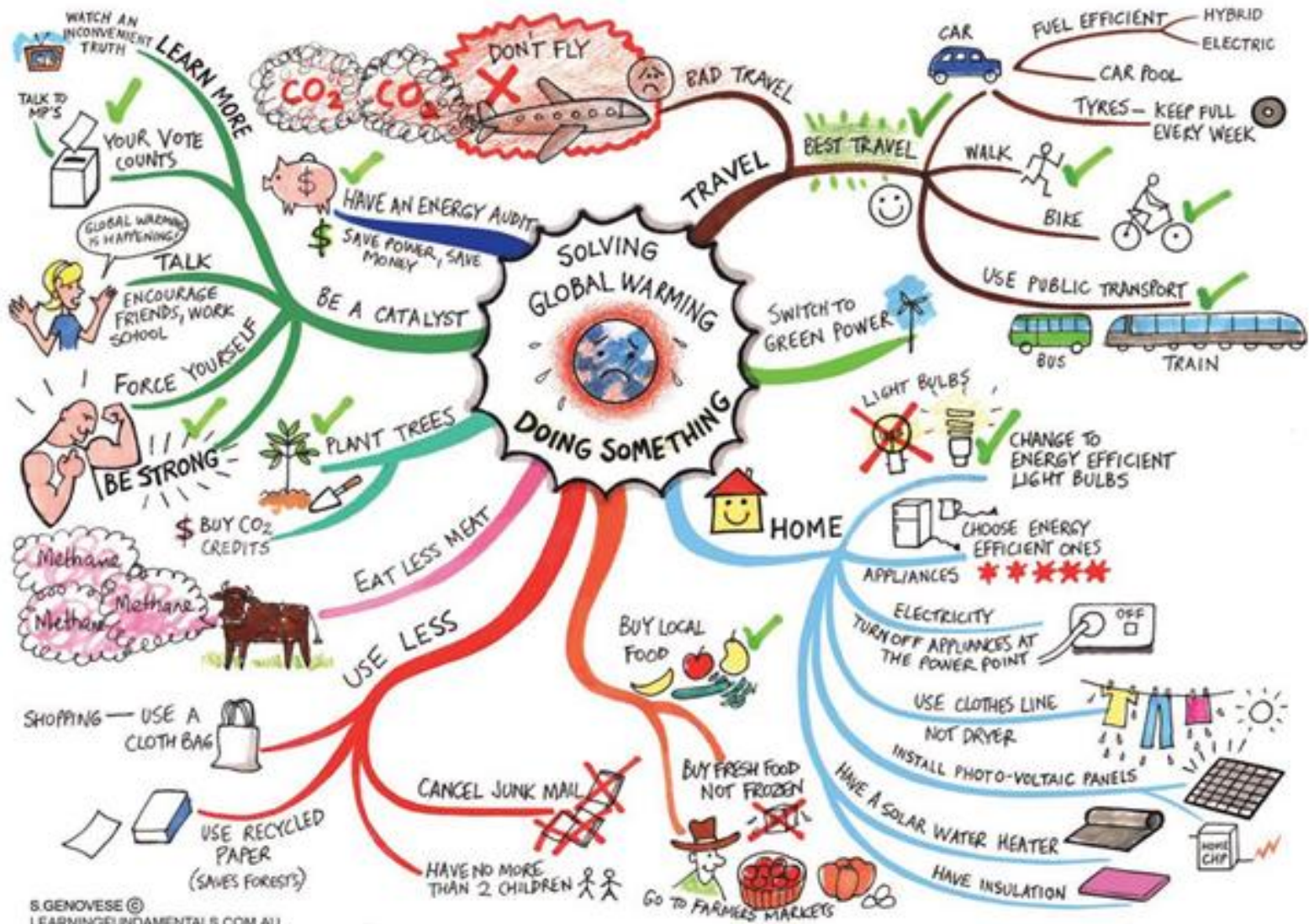


# Three Levels of Processing

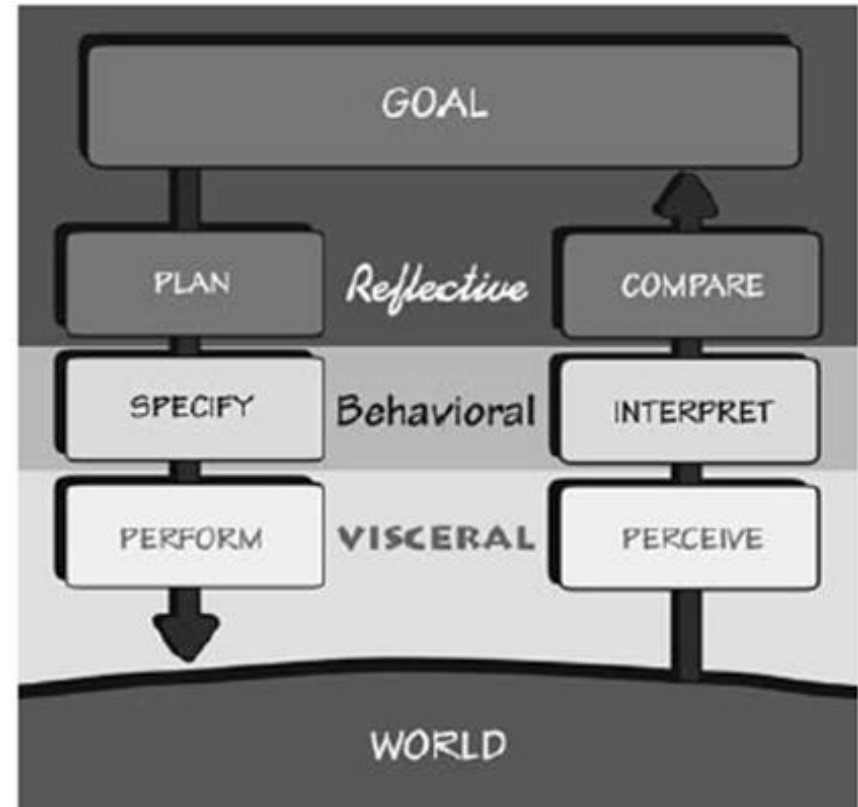
- Conscious cognition
- Deep understanding
- Reasoning and conscious decision making
- Evaluation of the circumstances, assessing blame or responsibility
- Highest levels of emotions



REFLECTIVE



# Levels of Processing & Stages of Action Cycle



# Putting it to practice



# Breakout

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Each group will pick a computer powered device (e.g., Alexa, Fitbit, Kindle, VR glasses, smart badges, smart remotes, smart appliances)

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Apply Norman's seven stages model to answer: 1. At which stage does the device fail? 2. Which design principles are deficient and why?

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One person reports back to the class

Describe the process of submitting an assignment to OWLbox in terms of our discussion of feedback cycles. Specifically, discuss how the six specific stages of bridging the gulfs of execution and evaluation apply to submitting an assignment via OWLbox.

An ideal answer to this question will name the stages explicitly, and provide a concise explanation for either (a) how the interface successfully brings the user across that part of the gulf (e.g. how the interface helps user identify their goal in the context of the interface), or (b) why the interface fails to bring the user across that part of the gulf (e.g. how the interface fails to show evidence of how the model has changed).

Select an activity from your regular life that struggles with a large gulf of execution or gulf of evaluation, especially due to a weakness of the interface involved in the activity. First, describe what makes that gulf wide. What are the failures of the current interface to bridge the gulf?

Then, select a similar activity from your regular life that does a better job bridging its gulf of execution or gulf of evaluation. Briefly describe that activity and what gives it a narrower gulf, then describe what lessons could be borrowed from the second activity to resolve the wide gulf in the first activity.



# I am only human (after all)

