Extent Barometer

The Extent Thermometer is particularly useful in helping students to focus on answering questions such as

* "To what extent was ... responsible for...", or
* "How important was ... to the success of..."

In each case, some analysis is required before an evaluation can be made and having a simple device like the Extent Thermometer will help the student translate the analyzed data into a decision.

This decision may vary from 'Completely' or 'Very High' or 'To a Large Extent" to 'Not at all' or Slightly' or ‘Minimally', and all points in between.

What this also highlights is the value of using the language of a cognitive taxonomy in the classroom. If students know that this is ultimately an

Evaluation type question, they can then use an Evaluation type tool such as the Extent thermometer. In order to suit the context of the learning experience, the teacher can change the descriptions used in the Extent Thermometer and the different perspectives. (Created by Eric Frangenheim)

