

Standards for Motivation and Engagement With Teacher Tools

Learning Goal Standard

Active learning

Students interact with material in ways that provoke critical thinking and questioning.

Options for Teachers

- Discussion
- Graphic organizers
- Summaries to reflect understanding
- Movement
- Meaningful projects
- Presentation

Autonomy

Students' encounters with choice and opportunities for input increase their interest and create a sense of control over their own learning.

- Individualized reading assignments (choice books)
- Literature circles
- Writing journals and personalized writing topics
- Student-led discussion

Learning Goal Standard

Relevance

Students form bridges and connections to content even when it may seem, at first, distant from their own lives.

Options for Teachers

- Discussion to explore and connect themes and characters
- Writing prompts that connect material to real life
- Research of similar, connected events (e.g., modern slavery and pre–Civil War slavery)

Collaboration

Learning takes place in pairs and groups in which multiple participants and points of view are engaged.

Options for Teachers

- Discussions in pairs and small groups
- · Structured whole-class discussion
- Online blogs, wikis, Google Documents, discussion forums, etc.
- Students' presentations with group feedback or discussion

Technology use

Students use technology not as a toy or distraction but as a tool to increase learning opportunities and to increase depth of study.

- The Internet (research and interaction)
- Audio and video files
- Presentation software (PowerPoint, Prezi, Glogster, etc.)
- Graphic design software

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Technology use (continued)

- Shared resource software (blogs, wikis, websites, etc.)
- · Social discussion and networking sites
- Online quiz software
- Online citation and note-taking programs

Multiple learning methods

Students encounter material in a variety of ways that increase "stickiness," appeal to various learning preferences, and connect disciplines.

Options for Teachers

Use multiple approaches from the following list to teach one concept:

- Note-taking during a teacher or student presentation
- Researching and presenting
- Student teaching another student
- Creating a song, artwork, a skit, or movement
- Discussion and collaborative exploration
- Creating questions
- Constructing flowcharts, diagrams, or webs
- Concept mapping
- Interviewing
- · Persuasive or analytical writing
- Narrative writing and journaling

Challenge and success

When learning, all students feel both challenged and successful in ways that increase self-efficacy.

- · Frequent rewriting and revision
- Varied formats of assessment that cater to different strengths

Learning Goal Standard

Challenge and success (continued)

- Assignments that allow students to explore their own interests
- Setting small, achievable goals in the short run (and larger goals in the long run)
- Positive feedback combined with meaningful and useful criticism

Differentiation and scaffolding

Instruction is individualized, builds upon prior knowledge, and is carefully structured so that each student learns deeply and at an appropriate rate for the class and material.

Options for Teachers

- Individualized writing prompts and problems
- Metacognitive and reflective activities that help students learn from mistakes and successes
- Individually assigned, developmentally appropriate reading selections
- Writing assignments of various lengths
- · Projects with options and choice built in
- Problem-based learning that allows for increasing depth of response
- Conferencing that address a student's specific needs, including reteaching

Inquiry

Assignments and topics promote a sense of curiosity and a love of learning through problem solving and open-ended questioning.

- Open-ended questions
- Student-generated questions and topics
- · Meaningful projects

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Inquiry (continued)

- Research
- Discussion

Feedback and authentic assessment

A variety of assessments (formative, summative, and self-directed) and a variety of timely responses (conferences, rubrics, written comments, and peer feedback) ensure that student learning capitalizes on strengths, limits or corrects weaknesses, and motivates ongoing learning.

- Formal tests
- Essays
- Graded discussions
- Presentations
- Pretests
- Revision
- Conferences
- Written reflections
- Peer evaluations
- Self-evaluations
- Student-teacher conferences