Activities to Engage All Students
Really Making Sure that No Child is Left Behind

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Steps to Engaging Students

- Identifying Students
- Identifying Gifted Students in Urban/Poverty
- Recognizing Hidden Rules
- Building Positive Relationships
- Choosing Curriculum
- Delivering Instruction
- Selecting Activities
- Using Assessments and Analyzing Data
Identifying Students

• Taking the time to identify types of learners
• Taking the time to identify how students learn
Identifying Gifted Students in Urban/Poverty Settings

- Cannot be identified based on criteria used for non-poverty gifted children/situations

- Student Production

- Informant Data

- Cognitive/Language Skills
Identifying Gifted Students in Urban/Poverty Settings

Poverty GT
- Solves by fighting
- Disrupts class/acts out
- Rude to teacher/authority figure

Common Experiences
- Conflict w/friend
- Completes work early
- Conflict w/school rule

Middle class GT
- Solves by reason/talking
- Reads a book/does hmwk
- Parent negotiates with teacher/authority figure
Recognizing Hidden Rules of Economic Class

- Poverty (many urban students)
- Middle Class (many classroom teachers)
Recognizing Hidden Rules of Economic Class

- Poverty (many urban students)
- Middle Class (many classroom teachers)
Building Positive Relationships

- Meet and greet students at the door
- Show students that you care
- Give feedback
- Find out family and living conditions
Building Positive Relationships

• Find out students’ interest(s)

• Be enthusiastic about teaching

• Take the time to talk/listen to students

• Gives “wait time”
Choosing Curriculum

• What is taught vs. What is learned

• Material covered vs. Student expectations

• Academic context vs. Life connect
Choosing Curriculum

- Individual subjects vs. Integrated subjects
- Textbook only vs. Multiple resources
Delivering Instruction

• Where we’ve been  • Where we’re going
Make learning active!

75% of all humans are talk processors.
Thus, most individuals learn by talking.
The Whole Class Question-Answer Strategy is as follows:

• The teacher asks a question.

• Students who wish to respond raise their hands.

• The teacher calls on a student.

• The teacher verifies the correct answer.
Beginning teachers often say that they need classroom management skills. However, what they actually need is the ability to set up classroom conditions where high level engagement and learning can occur.
When fewer problems are covered, students have more time for discussion. Thus, solutions are understood, rather than memorized.
Examples of Active Learning Strategies:

- Discussion Partners
- Reciprocal Teaching
- Discovery Activities
- Graffiti Walls
- Walking Tours
- Journals
Strategies Which Encourage All Members of a Small Group to Participate

• Equal Participation Through the Use of Talking Chips

• Assigning Tasks (ask a question, give an idea, or summarize progress)

• Assign Roles (scribe, timekeeper, summarizer, or materials manager)
Using Assessments and Analyzing Data

• Use varied assessments

• Make decisions: Re-teach or enrichment

• Determine meaning of results

• Focus on process
Think on This...

“No matter how well planned, how interesting, stimulating, colorful, or relevant the lesson, if the teacher does all of the interacting with the material, the teacher’s, not the student’s brain, will grow.”

~Pat Wolfe~
Bibliography

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