

A 6 Personalized Learning: Meeting Every Student's Needs



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What We'll Do in this Session

- Why does personalizing learning matter and how does it motivate our kids?
- Daniel Pink's work *Drive*
- It's rooted in the notion of a really great question. As Manny (a 7th grade student) says, "My questions are more important."

Why Personalized Learning Matters

1. What are your big take-aways and how does this impact your teaching?

2. What impact does this have on your classroom and teaching?

The Building Blocks for Personalizing Learning

- What is Universal Design?
- Beginning with the Essential Questions
- Content and Skills
- Assessment

The Starting Place

- Essential Questions
 - Big Questions that drive a unit or lesson
 - They aren't easily answered
 - Meant to raise other questions and curiosity
 - If you can answer it in Wikipedia, it probably isn't an essential question

More on Essential Questions

- Interdisciplinary design is highlighted by a deliberate, elevated, and overt declaration and examination of essential questions, or conceptually oriented questions that spark curiosity and frame the scope and sequence of learning. Essential questions in an interdisciplinary unit are like chapter headings in a book; each one is a focus of inquiry.

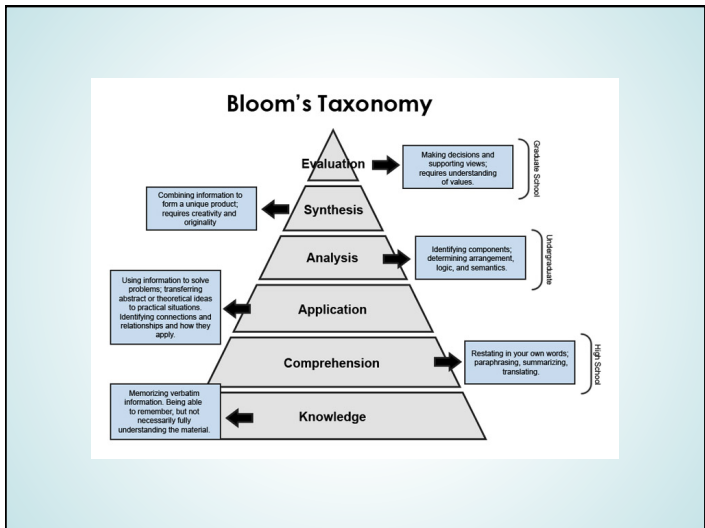
- <http://www.thirteen.org/edonline/concept2class/interdisciplinary/exploration.html>

If kids learn from a curriculum shaped by essential questions, they will be more likely to truly interact with the content. Instead of answering, "Stuff..." when asked what they learned, students will retain higher levels of knowledge. Essential questions are like mental Velcro; they give kids a "sticky" place to which their thoughts adhere. They also give students a sense of ownership of their curriculum from knowing what questions are directing their learning and why.

Essential Questions Checklist

- promote higher order thinking
- be anchored in the lives of learners
- be complex enough to be broken down into smaller questions
- relate to real-world problems
- help link concepts and principles across disciplines
- be meaningful
- correspond to the appropriate time frame
- be interesting to learners
- be relevant to learners' lives
- require materials that are readily available

Learning in the 21st Century



From Chicago:

Global Citizenship Experience

www.globalcitizenshipexperience.com

What GCE teacher,
Warren Thomas Rocco says:

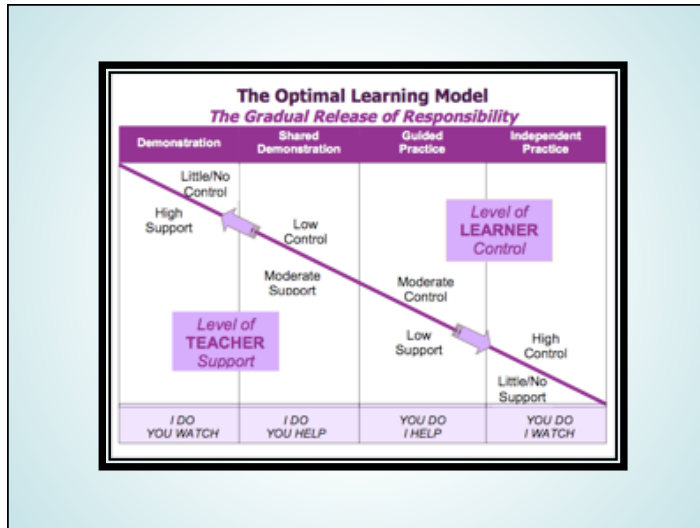
“Positive surprises are that this works. It works regardless of literacy levels. It works despite the fact that we could've been better organized, more tactical in our management of student works online, more committed to encouraging excellence over...merely, completed works. And so on. You can see the potential. We're learning...”

From New Zealand

pesnua.blogspot.com



Gradual Release of
Responsibility Model



You May Already be Doing this in Your Classroom

- Portfolios
- Writing Workshop
- Reading Workshop
- Inquiry Projects
- Webquests
- DI Strategies like anchor charts

Personalized Learning Checklist

- Figure out what motivates your students (oftentimes it is NOT grades)
- Develop GREAT questions (that matter) with your students
- Integrate Technology
- Use the Gradual Release of Responsibility Model in your planning and instruction
- Provide students with choice whenever it's possible

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