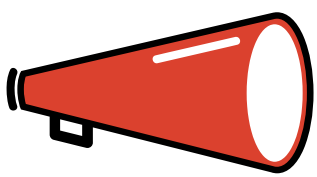


WHY IMPLEMENTING DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

WHAT IS DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION?



It is a framework which addresses learners' differences as a fundamental component of instructional planning. You can differentiate content (what students learn), process (how students learn), product (what is created), the learning environment and assessment. Its main advocate is Carol Ann Tomlinson.



WHAT DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION IS NOT

As Julie Stern states, teachers may feel overwhelmed when trying to implement DI. That is why it is important to bear in mind that DI is not:

- making groups according to students' levels
- focusing only on lower-level students
- creating an individual plan for each student

USEFUL STRATEGIES TO IMPLEMENT DI (TAKEN FROM PRODIGYGAME)



- Create learning stations (students can rotate between stations that target different learning styles)
- Use task cards with clear and varied activities
- Interview students to find out their interests
- Target different senses (visual, tactile, auditory, kinesthetic)
- Use Think-Pair-Share strategy
- Encourage the use of journals or blogs to reflect on their learning
- Promote collaboration
- Assign open-ended projects so students can choose how to demonstrate their learning

BENEFITS



- It is student-centered.
- Different learning styles are targeted thus recognizing, respecting and valuing differences.
- It enhances teacher and students' creativity.
- It is flexible.
- It fosters autonomy.
- It fosters ongoing assessment and reflection on our practices.
- It provides students with engaging and meaningful activities.



THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Technology offers a plethora of tools to make differentiation possible. These tools can keep students engaged and learn from where they are and not from where a textbook says they should be. In addition, technology is a great tool to implement stations in the classroom.