



TIP Sheet for Teachers and Mentors

Using Independent Learning Courses in the Differentiated Classroom

Duke TIP Independent Learning materials assist teachers and mentors in providing differentiated instruction for gifted learners. Listed here are a variety of differentiated instructional strategies that help integrate Duke TIP materials with other lessons and units. Teachers and mentors may choose to use Duke TIP Independent Learning materials as a whole course or to supplement existing curriculum.

- **Anchoring Activities (also known as sponge activities):** Students engage in specific skill practice, enrichment or extension work for a short period to “anchor” them as class begins or when they have completed an assignment or test.
 - Resource: View an overview PowerPoint at <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/curriculum/enriched/giftedprograms/docs/anchor.ppt>
- **Curriculum Compacting:** Students “compact” or eliminate material already mastered and move ahead to more challenging work.
 - Resource: Theory behind curriculum compacting at <http://www.sp.uconn.edu/~nrcgt/sem/semart08.html>
 - Resource: Slideshow of tips for implementation at http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/pdf/Curriculum_Compacting.pdf
- **Enrichment Clusters:** Students are grouped and re-grouped according to interest areas.
 - Resource: Developing an enrichment cluster at <http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/semart01.html>
- **Learning/Interest Centers:** A designated area or portable center enriches a student’s interest in a given content area while students rotate among centers by choice or as assigned by the teacher.
 - Overview of learning/interest centers at http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/bestpractice/centres/index.html
- **Independent Study Project/Learning Contracts:** As part of curriculum compacting or a homework project, students pursue a topic of interest with a mentor, tutor, or other teaching assistant.
 - Overview of learning contracts at http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/bestpractice/contract/index.html
- **Seminars:** A small group of students learns more about topics not covered in the regular classroom, extends a topic already learned about in class, or uses Socratic discussion to explore concepts and themes in depth.
 - Resource: Overview of Socratic seminars: http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/bestpractice/socratic/index.html



- **Tiered Assignments:** Students engage in one of a range of skill or content learning opportunities differentiated to student readiness, learning style, or interest areas. A teacher might provide three or more tiers for students to investigate.
 - Resource: Overview of tiered assignments:
http://www.saskschools.ca/curr_content/bestpractice/tiered/index.html

Recommended Readings on Differentiated Instruction:

- *Differentiated Instruction: A Guide for Middle and High School Teachers* by Amy Benjamin (Paperback - April 2002)
- *Differentiated Instruction: Making It Work : A Practical Guide to Planning, Managing, and Implementing Differentiated Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Learners* by Patti Drapeau (Paperback - Nov 2004)
- *Differentiation Through Personality Types: A Framework for Instruction, Assessment, and Classroom Management* by Jane A. G. Kise (Paperback - Dec 2006)
- *The Ultimate Guide for Student Product Development & Evaluation* by Frances A. Karnes and Kristen R. Stephens (Paperback - Oct 1999)
- *How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed-Ability Classrooms* by Carol Ann Tomlinson (Paperback - April 2001)
- *Differentiation in Practice: A Resource Guide for Differentiating Curriculum, Grades K-5* by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Caroline Cunningham Eidson (Paperback - June 2003)
- *Differentiation in Practice: A Resource Guide for Differentiating Curriculum, Grades 5-9* by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Caroline Cunningham Eidson (Paperback - Feb 2003)
- *Differentiation in Practice: A Resource Guide for Differentiating Curriculum, Grades 9-12* by Carol A. Tomlinson and Cindy A. Strickland (Paperback - Aug 30, 2005)
- *Differentiation for Gifted and Talented Students (Essential Readings in Gifted Education Series)* by Carol A. (Ann) Tomlinson and Sally M. Reis (Paperback - Mar 2004)
- *Integrating Differentiated Instruction & Understanding by Design (Connecting Content and Kids)* by Carol Ann Tomlinson and Jay McTighe (Paperback - May 2006)

Need more ideas or some advice about how to implement the materials you have purchased? Contact Duke TIP and ask to speak with our Independent Learning staff.
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