

## DIFFERENTIATED ACTIVITIES IN IMPROVING INSTRUCTION

by:

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In the classroom, there are many different types of students with different needs. One of the challenges for a teacher is to determine the right strategies, or ways, to teach the heterogeneous type of a class. Differentiated instruction is a teaching approach that recognizes and respects the unique needs, abilities, and learning styles of each student in the classroom. It involves adjusting teaching methods to make sure every learner can understand and participate in the lessons effectively. Teachers can achieve this by changing what they teach, how they teach it, how students show what they've learned, and even how the classroom is set up. By providing different ways for students to learn, this approach encourages students to stay engaged and helps them grow at their pace.

One of the biggest problems in education is that conventional teaching approaches frequently attempt to fit every student into a single mold, which isn't effective for everyone. Students in classrooms have a variety of learning styles, interests, and rates of learning. Effective teaching may face significant challenges if this variability is not taken into consideration. For instance, students who are performing better than their peers may get disinterested due to a lack of challenge, whereas those who are falling behind may become disinterested due to their inability to stay up (Top Hat, n.d.; Gentry et al., 2013). This demonstrates the necessity for instructional methodologies that are tailored to the needs of each individual student, guaranteeing that every student has an equal opportunity to learn.

Differentiated activities are one of the best intervention to address such issues. To offer a variety of learner-centered learning, educators might use tactics like task cards,

learning stations, and the like. Learning stations, for instance, let students switch between exercises designed for varying ability levels or learning styles. Similar to this, task cards can offer customized assignments that fit the interests and readiness of each student (Prodigy Education, 2024; Graduate Programs for Educators, 2023). By using these strategies, teachers may meet students where they are and promote an inclusive, cooperative learning environment.

In summary, using differentiated activities is essential for enhancing teaching because it meets the varied needs of students. By adjusting what is taught, how it's taught, how students show what they've learned, and the classroom setting, teachers can create lessons that are both engaging and inclusive for everyone. Although it takes time and effort to set up these tailored approaches, the positive effect on students' progress makes it a vital part of today's educational practices.

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