Training for the New Georgia Performance Standards
Day 6: Differentiation

Content Facilitator’s Guide
ELA K-3
Acknowledgements

This training program was developed by the Georgia Department of Education as part of a series of professional development opportunities to help teachers increase student achievement through the use of the Georgia Performance Standards.

For more information on this or other GPS training, contact Gerald Boyd at (404) 656-0476 or gboyd@doe.k12.ga.us.

Use of This Guide

The module materials, including a Content Facilitator’s Guide, Participant’s Guide, PowerPoint Presentation, and supplementary materials, are available to designated trainers throughout the state of Georgia who have successfully completed a Train-the-Trainer course offered through the Georgia Department of Education.
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Overview

By the end of Day 6 of training, participants will be able to:

1. Define differentiation and explain the importance of differentiation in the standards-based education process.

2. Explain key elements in planning for differentiation.

3. Describe and develop procedures for differentiating instruction in a flexible classroom.

4. Describe and develop effective classroom management strategies in a differentiated classroom.

5. Describe the roles of the teacher in a differentiated classroom.

6. Set individual goals for differentiating instruction in each classroom.
Module Sequence

Prior Preparation—Participants will have attended Days 1 through 5 of GPS training; or, if replacing another trainer, be thoroughly trained in the knowledge, skills, and conceptual understandings introduced in Days 1 through 5. In addition, read Carol Ann Tomlinson’s “Mapping a Route Toward Differentiated Instruction.” *Educational Leadership* 57.1 (Sept. 1999): 12-16. [http://pdonline.ascd.org/ pd_online/diffinstr/el199909_tomlinson.html](http://pdonline.ascd.org/pd_online/diffinstr/el199909_tomlinson.html).

Introduction to Differentiation (1½ hours)
- Calvin’s Day at School
- Defining Differentiation, An Introduction
- The Three Stages of Standards-Based Education, A Review
- Looking Inside Our Classrooms

The What, How, and Why of Differentiation (3½ hours)
- Overview of What, How, and Why of Differentiation
- Guided Practice Analyzing a Differentiated Task
- Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game
- True/False Quiz: What Does Differentiation Look Like?

The Teacher’s Role in a Differentiated Classroom (1 hour)
- Rethinking Our Roles
- Setting Personal Goals for Differentiating
Module Materials for Day 6 of Training

Content Facilitator’s Kit contents:

- Content Facilitator’s Guide (one for each leader)
- Complete set of slide transparencies (PowerPoint)
- Participant’s Guide (one per participant and one per leader)

Other materials needed:

- Name tags
- Easel chart paper and stand
- Flipchart paper and stand
- A number of colored markers for flipchart
- Post-it Notes
- Masking tape to post chart paper

Equipment:

- Overhead projector or computer and LCD projector

Days 4 and 5 Follow Up/ Day 6 Preparation

Remind participants to complete the assigned reading as preparation for Day 6. Also remind each participant to bring a copy of the unit of instruction they are currently teaching OR a copy of a unit s/he has helped planned, as well as the notebook from Days 1 through 5 of training.
**Recommended Readings/Viewings/Websites: Differentiation**

**Note:** A more general list of resources for the standards-based education process is contained in the materials for Day 1 of training.


This excellent resource includes three VHS tapes and a Facilitator’s Guide. The videos provide clips of real differentiated classrooms and include commentary by Carol Ann Tomlinson. One set of these materials is being sent to each local system.


Berger provides an overview of four areas of differentiation: content, process, product, and learning environment. In addition, she lists seven guiding principles for curriculum differentiation developed by the curriculum committee of the Leadership Training Institute.


This report examines information on the theory and research behind differentiated instruction and the intersection with Universal Design for Learning (UDL), a curriculum designed approach to increase flexibility in teaching and decrease the barriers that frequently limit student access to materials and learning in classrooms. The report includes a number of links to sites with more information about differentiated instruction.


Using varying types/levels of graphic organizers provides one means of differentiating content or process. This website includes a number of different types of graphic organizers along with explanations and suggestions for their use. Links to other resources may also be valuable.

Individual and group investigations, valuable strategies for differentiation, may be organized as I-Screens. An I-Search can actively engage students in the research process as they pursue questions of importance that they care about. This site explains one version of the I-Search process.


This article examines the potential benefits of standards-based instruction for English Language Learners (ELLs), presents a standards-based process for designing standards-based instructional units, and reviews the design of two standards-based units for ELLs. The benefits of performance standards for ELLs are clearly represented in a chart included in the article.


This site, developed by Renzulli Learning Systems, provides comprehensive enrichment and differentiation activities for students. Beginning by determining an individual student’s profile—interests, abilities, preferred style of expression, and learning style—this site then matches individual students with a number of enrichment and differentiation opportunities. Although the resource is in the development stage, this URL offers teachers a free trial opportunity to navigate the site.


Use this twelve item teaching style inventory to self-assess and self-score your teaching style in the areas of concept representation, learning, interaction, and cognitive processing.


This valuable resource explains both the theory behind and the means to achieve differentiation in mixed-ability classrooms. Each school received one copy of this resource along with other materials in the fall of 2004.
Tomlinson provides a view into three separate classrooms to illustrate what a differentiated classroom does and does not look like.


In this book, Tomlinson discusses the what, how, and why of differentiation, and provides examples from a number of differentiated classrooms.


This resource provides a brief primer on differentiation, as well as six differentiated units of instruction for grades K-5: two language arts units, two mathematics units, one science unit, and one social studies unit.


This resource provides a brief primer on differentiation, as well as six differentiated units of instruction for grades 5-9: one language arts unit, one mathematics unit, one science unit, two social studies units, and one French unit.


This resource is scheduled to be published in August of 2005.
Specialists’ Contact Information

For a list of district coordinators visit the Georgia Learning Connection:

English Language Learners
http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/contact/contact.asp?groupname=ESOL+District+Coordinators

Gifted and Talented
http://www.glc.k12.ga.us/contact/contact.asp?groupname=Gifted+Education

For specialists at the Georgia Department of Education:

English Language Learners—Victoria Webbert
vwebbert@doe.k12.ga.us
Gifted and Talented—Dr. Sally Krisel
skrisel@doe.k12.ga.us
Exceptional Students (Special Education)—Deborah Keane
dkeane@doe.k12.ga.us
Agenda

This is a one-day course, with approximately 6 hours of instructional time.

Prior Preparation—Participants

- Bring a copy of an instructional unit for a class you are currently teaching.

Introduction to Differentiation.................................................................1½ hours

- Thinking not Shrinking
- Calvin’s Day at School
- Defining Differentiation, An Introduction
- The Three Stages of Standards-Based Education, A Review
- Looking Inside Our Classrooms

The What, How, and Why of Differentiation.............................................3½ hours

- Overview of What, How, and Why of Differentiation
- Guided Practice Analyzing a Differentiated Task
- Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game
- True/False Quiz: What Does Differentiation Look Like?

The Teacher’s Role in a Differentiated Classroom....................................1 hour

- Rethinking Our Roles
- Setting Personal Goals for Differentiating
### Introduction to Differentiation

**Time**

1½ hours

**Overview**

In the introduction, the participants share their preconceptions about differentiation and relate these preconceptions to Carol Ann Tomlinson’s statements about differentiation. Then, the group reviews Stages One, Two, and Three of the Standards-Based Education Process and examines the importance of differentiation in this process.

**Objectives**

- Define differentiation and explain the importance of differentiation in the standards-based education process.
- Explain key elements in planning for differentiation.

**Activities**

- “Thinking not Shrinking” (Optional Activity)
- Evaluate Calvin’s Day at School
- Share Preconceptions About Differentiation
- Review Stages One, Two, and Three of SBE Process
- Self-Evaluate

**Materials**

- Overhead projector or computer and LCD projector
- Transparencies or PowerPoint presentation
- Participant's Guide
Title Slide  
Show title slide and welcome participants to training.

**Georgia Performance Standards**

**Day 6: Differentiation**

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**Materials:**
- Markers
- Chart Paper
- Book: *Through the Cracks* by Linda Sollman

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**Thinking not Shrinking** *(Optional Activity)*

**Present:** Think about a time in your life when you felt you fell “through the cracks”. Perhaps it was an experience involving big government bureaucracy or an incident at school. Is someone willing to share that experience with the group?

*[Trainer’s Note: Allow time for participants to respond to the question. Distribute books ahead of time to groups.]*

**Present:** To begin our discussion on differentiation, we will review in groups, the book “Through the Cracks” by authors Carolyn Sollman, Barbara Emmons, and Judith Paolini.

After reviewing the book, we will record your group reactions, both positive and or negative on the provided chart. You will have approximately 10 minutes to review and react to the story. Are there any questions before we begin?

**Present:** Where do you think students might feel like they fall “through the cracks” at your school or district in the implementation of the English Language Arts K-3 GPS? How can we solve these issues?
Trainer’s Note: {Allow 10 minutes for reading and sharing. At the end of the allotted time, record group reactions to problems and solutions on the provided chart. Make a two column chart ahead of time, one side for the problem and the other side for the solution to record participant’s responses.}

Present: Through the Cracks is a cleverly illustrated story told through the eyes of one student-literally shrunk to the size where she can fall “through the cracks” of the school floor- it reminds us that schools should be places where the needs of students come first, where activities are stimulating, where learning is celebrated.

We also learned that one size does not fit all when it comes to instruction.

Calvin’s Day at School

Show slide, Calvin & Hobbes cartoon.
[Trainer’s Note: The digital file for this cartoon is too large to represent in Facilitator’s Guide.]
Let’s take a minute to examine Calvin's day at school. What do you see? What general statements might we make about Calvin's day? [Allow time for participants to respond.]

Does it appear that Calvin's educational needs are being met? Why or why not? [Allow time for participants to respond.]

Show slide, Essential Question 1.

Essential Question #1

What does differentiation imply and how does differentiation fit into the standards-based education process?
Defining Differentiation, An Introduction

Materials:
Markers
Chart Paper

1. Present:

- In order to meet the needs of diverse learners in our classrooms, we must differentiate instruction to meet those needs. Let's take a minute to list some of the characteristics of diverse learners we have in our classrooms. [Have participants List responses on chart paper.]

- Expect or work to elicit responses such as:
  - advanced or gifted learners
  - struggling learners
  - English language learners
  - students with disabilities
  - students with varying degrees of experiences and/or prior knowledge
  - students with personal or family problems that inhibit their ability to learn
  - students with varying interests and/or attention spans.

2. Present:

- As we can see from this list, the needs of the diverse learners we encounter in our classrooms each year, like Calvin's needs, can't be addressed with a “one size fits all” approach to teaching and learning.

- In today's workshop, we will be focusing on differentiation of instruction in order to address the needs of all students. But just what do we mean when we use the term *differentiation*? Let's take a few minutes to identify our preconceived notions of differentiation.

- In your table groups, brainstorm your ideas about differentiation then discuss your brainstormed lists. Be prepared to share your ideas with the whole group in 7-10 minutes.

- Allow 7-10 minutes for the table groups to discuss, then ask each group to share their ideas.
3. Present:

- In the past few minutes we have touched on a number of ideas about diverse learners and differentiated instruction, and we will spend the remainder of today exploring many of these ideas. However, a thorough and comprehensive study of differentiation is beyond the scope of our workshop today. ASCD has prepared a series of materials on differentiation that will complement and enhance the information from today’s training. This series, *At Work in the Differentiated Classroom*, Alexandria, VA: ASCD, 2001, includes three VHS tapes and a Facilitator’s Guide. The videos provide clips of real differentiated classrooms and include commentary by Carol Ann Tomlinson. The facilitator’s guide suggests formats for utilizing the videos and other materials. One set of these materials will be provided to each local school system and each RESA. In addition, each system will receive one copy of *Differentiation in Practice, Grades K-5* and one copy of *Differentiation in Practice, Grades 5-9*. I strongly recommend that you use these resources to further your conceptual understanding of differentiation.

- Let’s take a look now at some of the experts’ statements about differentiation.
Let’s examine the key elements here:
“Differentiation can be defined as a way of teaching in which teachers proactively modify curriculum, teaching methods, resources, learning activities, and student products to address the needs of individual students and/or small groups of students to maximize the learning opportunity for each student in the classroom.”

What does it mean when we say differentiation is “a way of teaching?”

Allow participants to respond. Summarize responses and conclude: Differentiation is not merely a single strategy or bag of tricks we can pull from. Differentiation is more a philosophy that requires us to rethink teaching and learning in order to understand not only what to do but also why it matters . . . to rethink not only our instructional decision-making but also the learning environment and what our classrooms look and feel like . . . to rethink everything we do in light of the potential for the academic growth of all students.

In a differentiated classroom we modify curriculum, teaching methods, resources, learning activities, and student products PROACTIVELY.

We make the conscious decision to offer multiple ways of learning and multiple means of providing evidence of learning that are based on our assessments of the needs of those students or groups of students in our classrooms, assessments that are continuous and ongoing.
Slide: What is Differentiation?
(2nd with same title)

5. Show next slide, What is Differentiation (2nd with same title).

- Differentiation adapts what we teach, how we teach and how students learn, and how students show what they have learned based on the readiness levels, interests, and preferred learning modes of students.
- Differentiation is classroom practice that looks eyeball to eyeball with the reality that kids differ, and the most effective teachers do whatever it takes to hook the whole range of kids on learning.

--- Facilitator’s Guide, At Work in the Differentiated Classroom, 103, 113

- Assessment is the bedrock of a differentiated classroom. In order to meet the needs of individual students or groups of students, we must be cognizant of our students’ prior knowledge and experiences, as well as of their readiness to learn those skills and concepts included in different units of instruction.

- Because individual students have a variety of strengths and weaknesses, assessing readiness is continuous and ongoing. A student, for example, may read fluently and comprehend sophisticated texts but, at the same time, have difficulty communicating his/her ideas in writing.

- We must also explore and address the individual interests of our students. As Wiggins and McTighe emphasize, engaging students is an essential step toward student learning; and tapping into the interests of our students is one way to hook them.

- Finally, as we have discussed in our previous days of training, students learn and provide evidence of learning via different modalities. Knowing the learning styles and preferences of our students allows us to provide instruction and assessment opportunities that work best for those students.

6. Transition: I’ve just referred to what we’ve discussed on previous training days, but we may not all be at the same readiness level in terms of our prior knowledge and experience with the SBE process, so let’s review that process before we move on.
The Three Stages of Standards-Based Education, A Review

Slide: The SBE Model

1. Show slide, The Standards-Based Education Model.  
   [Trainer’s Note: Click to show each stage of the model.]

   ![](image)

   - How does all of this fit into the Standards-Based Education process? To answer this question, we need to review the stages of the standards-based education process.  
     [Trainer’s Note: Name each of the three stages and click to show that information on the slide.]

   - To review the stages of the SBE process, we’re going to form peer groups based on prior knowledge and experience. I know some of you have been to all of the GPS training, Days One through today, Day 6; some of you have been to every session EXCEPT Day 1; some missed both Day One and Day Two; some attended for the first time for Days 4 and 5; and some of you may be new today.

   - If today is your first day, raise your hand. [Note any new participants and assign them to separate groups. The number of groups will depend on the total number of participants, but you will need to have a minimum of 3 groups.]

   - Now, raise your hand if you have been to all of the Days of GPS training. [Divide these participants among the different groups.]
Assign the remainder of the participants to a group according to the days of training they have attended. The goal is to create a number of groups equal in prior knowledge and experience.

2. Present:

- In your groups, I’d like for you to review briefly the different stages of the SBE process. [Assign each group a different stage. If you have more than 3 groups, have multiple groups assigned to a single stage.]

- You will have 10 minutes to review the essential information relevant to your assigned stage of the SBE process and to represent that information on chart paper. In 10 minutes, I’m going to ask you to share this essential information with the rest of the group. [Designate wall space where charts can be posted in order: Stage One, Stage Two, and Stage Three.]

- Allow 10 minutes for group work. Provide 5 and 1 minute warnings. Encourage participants to post work as they finish.

3. Ask group(s) that focused on Stage One to share their work, then summarize and ask: What connections do you see to differentiation at this stage of the process?

- Allow for responses, then say: In their resource guides entitled, Differentiation in Practice, Carol Ann Tomlinson and Caroline Cunningham Eidson state, “There is no such thing as effective differentiation devoid of high-quality curriculum . . . . The teacher’s first job is always to ensure that curriculum is coherent, important, inviting, and thoughtful. Then and only then does it make sense to differentiate that curriculum.” The Georgia Performance Standards provide a high-quality curriculum for all learners.
4. Ask group(s) that focused on Stage Two to share their work, then summarize and ask: **What connections do you see between assessment and differentiation?**

- Allow for responses, then say: **Tomlinson and Eidson stress the connections between assessment and differentiation.** They note that “everything a student says and does is a potential source of assessment”; assessment in ongoing. First we must pre-assess to determine a student’s “knowledge, understanding, and skill set related to an upcoming unit or lesson” because it’s “critical for the teacher in a differentiated classroom to have a sense of student starting points.” Tomlinson and Eidson specify that assessment must also occur throughout the unit to continuously figure out a student’s knowledge, understanding, and skill set as s/he progresses through the unit; and final assessments should involve more than one format, for example, a product as well as a test or essay.

5. Ask group(s) that focused on Stage Three to share their work, then summarize and ask: **Does differentiation also play a part in Stage Three: Making Instructional Decisions? How?**

- Allow for responses, then say: **As we saw from Rick Stiggins’ work, assessment for learning means using assessment to make instructional decisions.** We plan instruction based on what we find out each day about our students’ progress toward the learning goals.

Slide: Grant Wiggins’ quotation

6. Show slide, **Grant Wiggins’ quotation.**

According to Grant Wiggins:

“Good planning leaves room for the unplannable. You do not know what you’ll be doing on April 11, and you’re a fool if you think so. If you do, then the curriculum is more important to you than your students.”

(Grant Wiggins, “Designing and Using Student Reflections and Self-Assessment,” ASCD Summer Conference on Differentiated Instruction and Understanding by Design, June 2005)
7. Present:

- At a recent ASCD conference on Differentiation Grant Wiggins stated that "Good planning leaves room for the unplannable. You do not know what you'll be doing on April 11, and you're a fool if you think so. If you do, then the curriculum is more important to you than your students."

- Wiggins may be exaggerating; he certainly advocates using the SBE model to plan instruction at the course and unit levels, so he’s not saying we shouldn’t plan. However, the message here is clear: in a differentiated classroom, teachers intervene and adjust instruction to meet the needs of the learners in that classroom; and that means using feedback from Monday’s class to determine exactly what I need to do on Tuesday. Therefore, I will plan instruction carefully, but I must be willing to modify those plans to meet the needs of the students each day in my classroom.

8. Transition: So far we’ve been speaking theoretically about differentiation. Before we move on to the what, how, and why of differentiating on a practical level, let’s each apply some basic assumptions underlying differentiated instruction to our own classroom practices.
Looking Inside Our Classrooms

1. Present:

- As stated previously, establishing a differentiated classroom is a way of thinking about teaching. Most of us are already at work implementing the Georgia Performance Standards in our classrooms. You’ve identified the learning goals for a unit of instruction, prepared an assessment plan, and made instructional decisions. We’ll be talking specifically about the what, how, and why of differentiation a bit later, but first let’s take a minute to pre-assess. Let’s each look inside our individual classrooms to see where we are before we determine where we hope to go and how we’re going to get there.

- You’ll need the copy of a plan for a unit of instruction that you brought with you and the list of “Some Underlying Assumptions of Differentiated Instruction” (PG-7). If you didn’t bring a copy of a unit plan, just respond with a particular unit of instruction in mind.

- Read each assumption and assess your own “way of thinking about teaching” by marking the star if this assumption is implicit in your practice throughout the unit, the smiley face if you’ve taken this assumption into consideration in some way for this unit, and the question mark if you need to think about your practice in terms of this assumption. You have approximately 10 minutes for this activity.
Some Underlying Assumptions of Differentiated Instruction (PG-7)

Read each assumption and assess your own “way of thinking about teaching” by marking the star if this assumption is implicit in your practice throughout the unit, the smiley face if you’ve taken this assumption into consideration in some way for this unit, and the question mark if you need to think about your practice in terms of this assumption.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Underlying Assumption</th>
<th>☆</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I have planned this unit to accommodate multiple and varied learning needs (social as well as cognitive), rather than attempting to accommodate them after student frustration or failure.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. I work to create and maintain a classroom community where students feel safe and valued as they are; at the same time I support each student in order to maximizing his or her potential.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. I interact with each student with positive regard and positive expectations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. I recognize every student has both talents and areas of need, and I emphasize the student’s strengths rather than accentuating labels, deficits, or differences. At the same time, I do not call attention to the differentiation, but rather I help students appreciate varied ways in which all of them can find personal success with important goals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. I use multiple and alternative forms of assessment at all stages of student learning in this unit in order to uncover and address a full range of learning needs and strengths.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. I gather and employ knowledge and information about my students in order to identify and address their varied readiness levels, interests, and learning profiles during this unit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. I find ways to provide access for all students to meaningful and powerful ideas, information, and skills in this unit rather than reducing the standards, watering down the curriculum, or assigning busy work.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. I use multiple methods in this unit to engage students in active learning. Although I may employ whole-class instruction, I know that differentiation does not take place during whole class instruction.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. I work to develop classroom management skills that allow 1) multiple tasks to proceed smoothly in the classroom, 2) students to take increasing responsibility for their learning, and 3) the time to monitor student activity and coach for student growth and quality work.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10. I accept responsibility for successful teaching and learning of each student in the class while working collaboratively with specialists to ensure success of individuals and the class as a whole.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. After approximately 10 minutes, say: **This pre-assessment is for your own use, but let’s take a moment or two to debrief the activity and relate it to what we’ve looked at earlier this morning.**

3. Ask: **What are the important points that you have learned about differentiation so far?** [Allow participants to share what they’ve learned. Use this to summarize important points about differentiation before moving on to the next section of the training.]

Slide: *Essential Question #1*

4. Show slide, Essential Question #1.

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Essential Question #1

What does differentiation imply and how does differentiation fit into the standards-based education process?
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- We began our exploration of differentiation with this essential question.
- I’d like to conclude this section with a couple of additional points stressed by Carol Ann Tomlinson and others.

Slide: *What is Curriculum Differentiation?*

5. Show slide, What is Curriculum Differentiation?

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What is Curriculum Differentiation?

“In differentiated instruction, classroom teachers make vigorous attempts to meet students where they are in the learning process and move them along as quickly and as far as possible in the context of a mixed-ability classroom. It promotes high-level and powerful curriculum for all students, but varies the level of teacher support, task complexity, pacing, and avenues to learning based on student readiness, interest, and learning profile.”
```
6. Present:

- As Tomlinson makes clear, differentiation involves beginning where our students are; however, as we all know, our students may not all be at the same place at the same time.

- To differentiate effectively, Tomlinson and Eidson advocate six essential principles to guide our decision making.
7. Show slide: Essential Principles of Differentiation.

- We’ve already discussed the importance of having a rigorous curriculum for all students.

- What do you think we mean when we say the “all tasks should be respectful of the learner”? [Allow participants to respond before going on.]

- To challenge every learner, Tomlinson says “when in doubt, teach up.” What’s your response? [Allow participants to respond before going on.]

- We’ll discuss assessment and flexible grouping in the next section.

- The final essential principle of differentiation focuses on grading. Although we touched briefly on grading in Day 3 of training, we’re going to reserve our discussion of fairness and grading in a differentiated classroom for Day 7 of training when we look more closely at examining student work.

- Keep these essential principles in mind as we move on to the next section and look at the what, how, and why of differentiation.
The What, How, and Why of Differentiation

Time 3½ hours

Overview
In this section will focus on the what, how, and why of differentiation. Topics of discussion will include readiness, student interests, and learning profiles; ways of differentiating content, process, product, and the learning environment; and access to learning, motivation to learn, and efficiency of learning. Participants will be provided with a guide for differentiating, and they will use this guide along with the information presented to prepare a plan for differentiating in a mixed-ability classroom.

Objectives
- Explain key elements in planning for differentiation.
- Describe and develop procedures for differentiating instruction in a flexible classroom.
- Describe and develop effective classroom management strategies in a differentiated classroom.

Activities
- Overview of What, How, and Why of Differentiation
- Guided Practice Analyzing a Differentiated Task
- Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game
- True/False Quiz: What Does Differentiation Look Like?

Materials
- Chart paper and markers
- Transparencies or PowerPoint presentation
- Participant's Guide
- Cards, with profiles of individual students or groups of students
Overview of What, How, and Why of Differentiation

Slide: Essential Question 2


Essential Question #2

How do I know what to differentiate, how to differentiate, and why to differentiate in order to best meet the needs of the students in my classroom?

[Trainer’s Note: This section contains a great deal of information. Plan so that sufficient time is allotted for the application of this information in the Guided Practice and Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game. Several of the handouts included in the Participant’s Guide and copied in the Facilitator’s Guide can be noted as resources without going into detail.]

2. Present:

- **Differentiating in a mixed-ability classroom involves a complex process. It’s not as simple as deciding to differentiate and “voilà,” the next day or week or semester we’ve accomplished our goal.**

- **We need to work toward a more differentiated one day at a time. As with all journeys, this one begins with the first step. Coming together to talk in a collegial way about differentiation is that first step.**

- **In this section of today’s workshop, we will look at a number of aspects of differentiation that will help us make informed decisions about differentiating in our classrooms.**
3. Present:

- Each day when we enter our individual classrooms, we encounter students with diverse needs, abilities, and interests. Think for a moment about the students sitting in your classroom at this moment. Providing each of those students access to a rigorous curriculum is our goal.

- This, however, does not mean we must individualize instruction for every student. Rather it means we must plan for the diverse groups of students we meet each day.

- Children already come to school differentiated. Students in today's classrooms represent a broad range of academic readiness, interests, learning profiles, modes of learning, and cultures.

- To maximize the potential for each learner, educators need to meet each child at his or hers starting point and ensure substantial growth during each school term. Sometimes that means pushing our students beyond their comfort zones.
Slide: *Come to the edge.*

4. Show slide: Come to the edge.

“Come to the edge,” he said.
“We are afraid,” they said.
“Come to the edge,” he said.
THEY DID.
And he pushed them,
And they flew.

— Apolonaire

5. Present:

- The words of Apolonaire have particular significance both for the students we teach and for ourselves as teachers and instructional leaders.

- For most of us, differentiating in a mixed-ability classroom offers a challenge that brings with it moments of fear and uncertainly.

- Real growth occurs when we move to the edge of what we know and are able to do, don wings, and fly into new territory.

- How well we fly, however, depends on those wings. In this section we’re going to construct metaphorical wings that will allow us to soar into the realm of differentiation.

- Similarly, real growth student growth occurs when we encourage our students to move to the edge of what they know and are able to do—the zone of proximal development—help them build their wings, and then gently push them off the edge so that they can fly.

- In order to help our students fly, we must first determine how best to help them build their wings.

![What Do We Differentiate?](image)

We determine what to differentiate by assessing the readiness interests learning profile of particular students or groups of students.

7. Present:

- To determine a student’s readiness to learn, we must assess the student’s abilities, prior knowledge, and experiences.

- To determine a student’s interests we must take the time to find out that student’s likes and dislikes, what he spends time doing outside the classroom, and what piques that student’s desire to learn.

- To determine a student’s learning profile, we must analyze that student’s learning style in order to discover the most effective ways the student learns as well as the best ways for that student to provide evidence of learning and to convey understanding.

- We determine a student’s readiness, interests, and learning profile through assessment. Initially this means pre-assessing our students.

Slide: *Pre-Assessment* 8. Show slide: Pre-Assessment.

![Pre-Assessment](image)

- a way to determine what students know about a topic before it is taught or the skill level of students before instruction begins. It should be used regularly in all curricular areas. Teachers can use the information gained in pre-assessment to make instructional decisions about student strengths and needs.

- a means to help the teacher determine flexible grouping patterns as well as which students are ready for different levels of instruction.
9. Present:

- Pre-assessment allows us to make the appropriate instructional decisions for each of our students. It also helps us to decide how to use flexible grouping to maximize learning.

- Tomlinson uses a chart to illustrate the range of activities in a differentiated classroom. This chart is reproduced on page 8 of your Participant's Guide.

- In a differentiated classroom, students work in a variety of instructional arrangements, some whole class, some small group, some individual, and some student-teacher conferences.

- At times groups may be formed with students of similar levels of readiness, interests, or learning styles; other times groups may be made up of individuals with a range of abilities interests, or learning styles.

- Most importantly, the constitution of these groups changes throughout a unit or course of study based on the needs and/or growth of the students. Flexible grouping in an integral part of a differentiated classroom. Tomlinson and Eidson define flexible grouping as the “purposeful reordering of students into working groups to ensure that all students work with a wide variety of classmates and in a wide range of contexts during a relatively short span of time” (*Differentiation in Practice*, Grades 5-9, 235).

- Pre-assessment helps teachers determine the most effective activity formats and/or groups for particular purposes and to meet the needs of the diverse learners in the class.
10. Show slide: Pre-Assessment Strategies.

### Pre-Assessment Strategies

- Student interviews
- Student products and work samples
- Self-evaluations
- Portfolio analysis
- Game activities
- Show of hands to determine understanding: every pupil response
- Drawing related to topic or content
- Standardized test information
- Reader response survey
- Anticipation journals

- Teacher prepared pretest
- KWL charts and other graphic organizers
- Writing prompts/samples
- Questioning
- Picture interpretation
- Prediction
- Teacher observation checklists
- Student demonstrations and discussions
- Initiating activities
- Informational surveys, questionnaires, inventories
- Guess box
- Picture interpretation
- Prediction
- Teacher observation/checklists
- Student demonstrations and discussions
- Initiating activities
- Informational surveys, questionnaires, inventories

---

**Slide: Pre-Assessment Strategies**
11. Present:

- This slide lists a number of pre-assessment strategies.

- You can find this list on page 9 of the Participant’s Guide as well.

- As you can see, testing is but one way to pre-assess.

- Assessing certain students or groups of students such as English Language Learners (ELLs) and learners with special needs often requires specific knowledge and skills. Our focus for today, however, is on differentiating in the mixed ability classroom.

- While all classroom teachers work with diverse populations, including English language learners and students with special needs, specialists are available at the school, system, or state level to assist in these areas. For specialists’ contact information, see page 6 in the Participant’s Guide.

- A few resources related to English language learners and students with special needs are included in the appendix to the Participant’s Guide. These include an overview of the factors involved in assessing English language learners, a list of instructional accommodations for ELLs, and a differentiation menu for students with special needs.
  [Trainer’s Note: These resources are also included in the appendix to the Facilitator’s Guide.]

- Finally, assessment is ongoing throughout any unit of instruction. We don’t make differentiation decisions one time and move on. Differentiation is ongoing and guided by continuous assessment.
Range of Activities in a Differentiated Classroom (PG-8)

Classroom Instructional Arrangements

Whole Class Activities

- Pre-assessment (readiness/interest)
- Introduction of Concepts
- Planning
- Sharing
- Wrap-up of Explorations

Small-Group Activities (Pairs, Triads, Quads)

- Sense-Making
- Teaching Skills
- Directed Reading
- Planning
- Investigation

Individualized Activities

- Compacting
- Practice & Apply Skills
- Interest Centers
- Independent Study
- Sense-Making
- Homework
- Products
- Testing

Student-Teacher Conferences

- Assessment
- Tailoring & Planning
- Guidance
- Evaluation

Pre-Assessment Strategies (PG-9)

✓ teacher prepared pretest
✓ KWL charts and other graphic organizers
✓ writing prompts/ samples
✓ questioning
✓ guess box
✓ picture interpretation
✓ prediction
✓ teacher observation/ checklists
✓ student demonstrations and discussions
✓ initiating activities
✓ informational surveys/ questionnaires/ inventories
✓ student interviews
✓ student products and work samples
✓ self-evaluations
✓ portfolio analysis
✓ game activities
✓ show of hands to determine understanding: every pupil response
✓ drawing related to topic or content
✓ standardized test information
✓ reader response survey
✓ anticipation journals
12. Show slide: How Do We Differentiate?

13. Present:

- **In order to decide how to differentiate, we need to look at the four most effective means of differentiating.**

14. Show slide: How to Differentiate. [Trainer’s Note: Click to reveal each of the four means of differentiation, one at a time.]

- **The content of this slide is also on page 10 of the Participant’s Guide.**

---

**Slide: How Do We Differentiate?**

**Pre-assessment information helps teachers to respond to students' needs and to match students' traits to specific, most effective means of differentiation:**

- **Content**
- **Process**
- **Product**
- **Learning Environment**

---

**Slide: How to Differentiate**

- **Content**: Content consists of ideas, concepts, descriptive information, facts, rules, and principles that the student needs to learn. Content can be differentiated through depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. Materials can vary according to reading level or by employing text materials on tape.

- **Process**: Process is the presentation of content, including the learning activities for students, the questions that are asked, as well as the teaching methods and thinking skills that teachers and students employ to relate, acquire, and assess understanding of content.

- **Product**: Products are the culminating projects and performances that result from instruction. They ask the students to rehearse, apply, or extend what they have learned in a unit. A product or performance provides the vehicle that allows students to consolidate learning and communicate ideas.

- **Learning Environment**: The learning environment is the way the classroom looks and/or feels, including the types of interaction that occur, the roles and relationships between and among teachers and students, the expectations for growth and success, and the sense of mutual respect, fairness, and safety present in the classroom.
**How to Differentiate (PG-10)**

**Content**
Content consists of ideas, concepts, descriptive information, and facts, rules, and principles that the student needs to learn. Content can be differentiated through depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration. Content includes the means by which students will get access to information. Materials can vary according to reading level or by employing text materials on tape.

**Process**
Process is the presentation of content, including the learning activities for students, the questions that are asked, as well as the teaching methods and thinking skills that teachers and students employ to relate, acquire, and assess understanding of content.

**Learning Environment**
The learning environment is the way the classroom looks and/or feels, including the types of interaction that occur, the roles and relationships between and among teachers and students, the expectations for growth and success, and the sense of mutual respect, fairness, and safety present in the classroom.

**Products**
Products are the culminating projects and performances that result from instruction. They ask the students to rehearse, apply, or extend what s/he has learned in a unit. A product or performance provides the vehicle that allows students to consolidate learning and communicate ideas.
15. Present:

- Let’s take a closer look at each of these four means of differentiating.
- Time does not allow us to discuss all the possible differentiation strategies; however, a glossary of many of these strategies is provided in the Participant’s Guide.

[Trainer’s Note: The Facilitator’s Guide has this glossary as well.]

Slide: Content

16. Show slide: Content. [Trainer’s Note: Present the information from each slide and ask participants to suggest additional strategies for each before going on to the next.]

Content consists of ideas, concepts, descriptive information, and facts, rules, and principles that are presented to the learner. Content can be differentiated through depth, complexity, novelty, and acceleration.

Examples of differentiating content at the elementary level include the following:
- Using reading materials at varying readability levels
- Using spelling or vocabulary lists at readiness levels of students
- Meeting with small groups to re-teach an idea or skill for struggling learners, or to extend the thinking or skills of advanced learners

(Tomlinson, C.A., Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades, August 2000)

Some Strategies for Differentiating Content

- Varying rate of learning and complexity
- Technology
- Curriculum compacting
- Interest based mini lessons
- Learning styles and Multiple Intelligences
- Small group
- Multiple texts and supplementary learning contracts
- Concept based teaching
- Readiness testing

Process

Process is the presentation of content, including the learning activities for students, the questions that are asked, as well as the learning activities and thinking skills that are used. Examples of differentiating process or activities at the elementary level include the following:
- Using tiered activities through which all learners work with the same important understandings and skills, but proceed with different routes to support, challenge, or extend learning.
- Providing interest centers that encourage students to explore subsets of the class topic of particular interest to them.
- Developing personal agendas (task lists written by the teacher and containing both common work for the whole class and work that addresses individual needs of learners) to be completed during specified agenda time or as students complete other work early.
- Offering manipulatives or other hands-on supports for students who need them.
- Varying the length of time a student may take to complete a task in order to provide additional support for struggling learners or to encourage an advanced learner to pursue a topic in greater depth.

(Tomlinson, C.A., Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades, August 2000)

Some Strategies for Differentiating Process

- Mixed readiness grouping
- Learning stations
- Learning contracts
- Tiered curriculum
- Learning contracts
- Choice of work arrangement
- Similar readiness grouping
- Cubing
- Tiered curriculum
- Student choice

Slide: Process

Slide: **Products**  
18. Show slide: Products

**Slide: Products**

**Products**

Products are the outcomes of instruction that consolidate learning and communicate ideas. Examples of differentiating products at the elementary level include:

- Giving students options of how to express required learning in their preferred learning style (e.g., create a puppet show, write a letter, develop a mural with labels, etc.)
- Allowing students to work alone or in small groups on their products.
- Encouraging students to create their own product assignments as long as the assignments contain required elements.

(Tomlinson, C.A., Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades, August 2000)

**Some Strategies for Differentiating Products**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Student choice</th>
<th>Individual assignments</th>
<th>Co-operative only</th>
<th>Mixture</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentors</td>
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<td>Independent study</td>
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<td>Interest-based investigations</td>
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<td>Student choice</td>
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<td>Tiered products</td>
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19. **Note:** Two, more comprehensive lists of products are provided in the appendix to the Participant’s Guide.  
[Trainer’s Note: These lists are in the appendix to the Facilitator’s Guide as well.]

Slide: **Learning Environment**  

**Slide: Learning Environment**

**Learning Environment**

The learning environment is the way the classroom looks and/or feels, including the types of interaction that occur, the roles and relationships between and among teachers and students, the expectations for growth and success, and the sense of mutual respect, fairness, and safety present in the classroom.

Examples of differentiating learning environment at the elementary level include:

- Making sure there are places in the room to work quietly and without distraction as well as places that invite student collaboration.
- Providing materials that reflect a variety of cultures and home settings.
- Setting out clear guidelines for independent work that match individual results.
- Developing routines that allow students to get help when teachers are busy with other students and cannot help them immediately.
- Helping students understand that some learners need to move around to learn, while others do better staying quiet.

(Tomlinson, C.A., Differentiation of Instruction in the Elementary Grades, August 2000)

**Some Strategies for Differentiating Products**

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<td>Response Journals</td>
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<td>Shared Decision Making</td>
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<td>Class Meetings</td>
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</table>
21. Present:

- Classroom management is an integral part of the learning environment. In a differentiated classroom multiple activities may be taking place and multiple groups or other teaching/learning arrangements may operating at any one time.

- Consequently, it is imperative to have classroom protocols in place for everything from what to do upon first entering the classroom to how to move from activity to activity to what to do if you finish early.

- Tape 2 of the ASCD set entitled *At Work in the Differentiated Classroom* focuses on classroom management. The DOE will be providing each system and each RESA with a set of these materials, and we recommend that you view this tape to learn more about classroom management in a differentiated classroom.

22. Say: **Before we put these ideas into practice, let’s take a quick look at the reasons why we differentiate.**

Slide: Why Do We Differentiate?

23. Show slide: Why Do We Differentiate?

**Why Do We Differentiate?**

The key reasons for differentiating the learning experience are:

- access to learning
- motivation to learn
- efficiency of learning

Tomlinson, *The Differentiated Classroom*

[Trainer's Note: Show each of the next three slides and review the information on each.]

Access to Learning

Students cannot learn that which is inaccessible because they don’t understand.

Tomlinson, The Differentiated Classroom

25. Show slide: Motivation to Learn.

Motivation to Learn

Students cannot learn when they are unmotivated by things far too difficult or things far too easy.
Students learn more enthusiastically when they are motivated by those things that connect to their interests.

Tomlinson, The Differentiated Classroom


Efficiency of Learning

Students learn more efficiently when they have a suitable background of experience.
Students learn more efficiently when they can acquire information and express understanding through a preferred mode.

Tomlinson, The Differentiated Classroom
28. Present:

- Carol Ann Tomlinson has developed a tool to use in planning differentiated lessons. She calls this tool “The Equalizer.”

- The equalizer provides a visual guide to help teachers create tiered tasks.

- Teachers can adjust the difficulty of a task or a product along several continua.

- Tomlinson notes that “by matching task difficulty with learner readiness, a teacher can provide appropriate challenge for a given learner at a given time” (*Differentiation in Practice, Grades 5-9*, 235).

- “For example, if students in a math class are working with measurement, their teacher might ask them to measure the surface area of a desk. If the teacher asks students having difficulty with measurement to measure the surface area of their bedroom floors as a homework assignment, that task, on the Equalizer, would be relatively ‘foundational’—that is, similar to the familiar, in-class task. If on the other hand, the teacher finds that some students have a solid grasp of the in-class task, the teacher might assign homework asking them to develop a plan for measuring the surface area of a tree. That task is much more ‘transformational’—or unfamiliar. In this way, both groups of students can continue to advance their ability to measure surface area, but at appropriately different degrees of difficulty” (*Ibid*, 235).
29. Present:

- Let's examine the other continua in order to make sure we understand how they can be used to adjust the difficulty of a task or product.

- Allow time for participants to discuss and reach consensus regarding the other continua before moving on.

PG-11: *The Equalizer*

- You can find this Equalizer on page 11 of your Participant's Guide.
The Equalizer (PG-11)

Concrete to abstract
(representations, ideas, applications, materials)

Simple to complex
(resources, research, issues, problems, skills, goals)

Basic to transformational
(information, ideas, materials, applications)

Single facets to multi-facets
(directions, problems, applications, solutions, approaches, disciplinary connections)

Smaller leaps to greater leaps
(application, insight, transfer)

More structured to more open
(solutions, decisions, approaches)

Less independence to greater independence
(planning, designing, monitoring)

Slow to faster
(pace of study, pace of thought)

Tomlinson, 1995
Guided Practice: Analyzing a Differentiated Task

Slide: Guided Practice

30. Show slide: Guided Practice.

Guided Practice

THE TASK: In your table groups, analyze the differentiated tasks provided on the Guided Practice handout (PG-12).


THE TIME: 15 minutes and then group share.
Now it’s time to begin to apply what we’ve learned about differentiation. On page 12 of the Participant’s Guide you will find a standard and elements along with a suggested task. In addition, the handout includes three differentiated tasks.

Your job is analyze these differentiated tasks to determine how the tasks have been differentiated.

Is the content different? If so how?

Are the processes different? If so how?

Are the products different? If so how?

Is the learning environment different? If so how?

How might these differentiated tasks address the whys of differentiation: access, motivation, and efficiency?

What continua on the Equalizer do you see differentiated?

You will have approximately 15 minutes in your table groups to analyze these differentiated tasks. At the end of that time you will share your analyses with the whole group.

Provide 5 and 2 minute warnings. At the end of the allotted time, ask table groups to share their analyses. Discuss possible reasons for any different conclusions.
Guided Practice (PG-12)

Comprehension

ELA2R4  The student uses a variety of strategies to gain meaning from grade-level text.

Element:  h. Makes connections between text and/or personal experiences.

Sample Task:
During the directed read aloud, students are introduced to the book, The Keeping Quilt by Patricia Polacco. As the teacher read page by page, he/she stops to model, making connections to self, text, or world. The students are allowed to make connections, as well.

The Differentiated Tasks:

1. The student will reread the book with an assigned book buddy to find the many traditions portrayed throughout the book. Using a teacher-prepared graphic organizer, compare the earlier traditions with the modern ones. Which ones continued through the generations? Which ones changed?

2. The student will compose a letter from Anna as she arrives in New York to friends back in Russia. Have students describe the scene of her arrival and her first home.

3. Patricia Polacco often writes about things that really happened in her family. Have students to write about similar things that happened in their family in the writing journal.

4. The Statue of Liberty is shown on the title page of the book. The students will independently find and read the sonnet “The New Colossus” some of which is inscribed on the statue. The student then meets with two peers to discuss why those lines were chosen. The peer group will also discuss if immigrants are still encouraged to come to America. Finally, each student will make charts, maps or graphs to show where Anna’s family immigrated.
Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game

32. Show slide: Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game.

33. Present:

- Establishing a differentiated classroom means taking into consideration the needs of the diverse learners in that classroom.

- One way to do this is to develop tiered tasks—that is, a number of versions of a single task adjusted for different learners or groups of learners, just as we saw in the guided practice.

- These adjustments take into consideration readiness, interests, and learner profiles. They provide different ways to access or process content, different types of products to provide evidence of understanding, and/or different learning environments including individual work, small group work, whole class work, and student/teacher conferencing.

- We’re going to practice differentiating via tiered tasks in this next activity.
34. Present:

- **Remember, differentiation is not the same as individualized instruction.** We often differentiate for groups of students in a mixed-ability classroom.

- **You will have approximately 30 minutes to work in your table groups to prepare your differentiation plan. Obviously this isn’t enough time to plan as well as we might like, but you’ll be surprised at the amount you can accomplish when you put your heads together.**

- **Provide 10, 5, and 1 minute warnings.** Distribute chart paper and designate a place for posting group work. As groups finish, provide tape for posting. When the time has expired, ask each group to share. Allow opportunity for other groups to comment on each presentation.
What Does Differentiation Look Like

Slide: True/False Quiz

35. Show slide: True/False Quiz.

36. Present:

- To conclude this section, we’re going to take a brief True/False Quiz.

You will find this quiz on pages 14-15 of your Participant’s Guide.

Follow the directions on the slide to complete the quiz. No cheating! Tomlinson’s responses to these items are on the next slide; but remember they may be more than one way of looking at a particular item. Context is significant when discussing aspects of differentiation.

You have 10-12 minutes for this activity and then we will compare our answers.

Allow time for participants to discuss, compare, and provide reasons for their answers BEFORE revealing the next slide with one person’s “right” answers.
What Does Differentiation Look Like: A True/False Quiz (PG-14-15)

Directions: Mark the item T if it is TRUE for a differentiated classroom or F if it is FALSE for a differentiated classroom. After you have responded individually, compare your answers to the others in your table group. When you disagree, discuss your various points and attempt to reach consensus.

_____ 1. All students in the class completing the same work for a unit/chapter.

_____ 2. Assessing students before a unit of instruction to determine what they already know.

_____ 3. Adjustment of the core curriculum by content (below to above grade level).

_____ 4. Limiting how and what is taught by teaching to the average student.

_____ 5. Providing assignments tailored for students of different levels of achievement.

_____ 6. Having high expectations for ALL students.

_____ 7. Educational experiences which extend, replace, or supplement standard curriculum.

_____ 8. Assigning more work at the same level to high achieving students.

_____ 9. Focusing on student weaknesses and ignoring student strengths.

_____ 10. Activities that all students will be able to do.

_____ 11. Structuring class assignments so they require high levels of critical thinking and allow for a range of responses.

_____ 12. Giving the same kind of problems or questions and expecting more.

_____ 13. Creating more work-extra credit, do when done.

_____ 14. Students participating in respectful works.

_____ 15. Putting students in situations where they don't know the answer- often.


_____ 17. Providing free-time challenge activities.

_____ 18. Differing the pace of instruction.
19. Using capable students as tutors.

20. Using higher standards when grading.

21. A blend of whole class, group, and independent learning.

22. Using individualized instruction.
What Does Differentiated Instruction Look Like?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Differentiated Instruction</th>
<th>Differentiated Instruction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37. Show slide: What Does Differentiated Instruction Look Like?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38. Present:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Take a minute to compare the answers we came up with to the “correct” answers, remembering that, depending on context, there may be more than one way to approach an item.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Essential Question #2

How do I know what to differentiate, how to differentiate, and why to differentiate in order to best meet the needs of the students in my classroom?

40. Transition: Reaching a conceptual understanding of the what, how, and why of differentiation is the first step toward providing every student with the opportunity to learn. In the final hour of today’s workshop, we’ll look at the role of the teacher in a differentiated classroom and set some goals for differentiating our own classrooms.
The Role of the Teacher in a Differentiated Classroom

Time 1 hour

Overview In this section will focus on the various roles and responsibilities of the teacher in a differentiated classroom. We will examine areas in which we may need to rethink traditional ways of doing in order to maximize every student’s opportunity to learn. We will look at a number of ways of differentiating that require low levels of preparation, as well as other means that require more preparation. Finally, we will develop individual action plans for moving toward differentiated classrooms.

Objectives
- Describe the roles of the teacher in a differentiated classroom.
- Set individual goals for differentiating instruction in each classroom.

Activities
- Comparing and Contrasting Teachers in Traditional and Differentiated Classrooms
- Analyzing and Creating Teacher Metaphors
- Developing an Individual Action Plan for Differentiation
- Assignments for Days 7 and 8

Materials
- Chart paper and markers
- Transparencies or PowerPoint presentation
- Traditional and differentiated comparison chart
- Participant’s Guide
- Cards with teacher metaphors
Rethinking Our Roles

Slide: Essential Question 3


   Essential Question #3
   What is the role of the teacher in a differentiated classroom?

2. Present:

   - On pages 16-17 of your Participant’s Guide, you will find a chart that compares a traditional classroom to a differentiated classroom. Please turn to that chart.
   - In your table groups, read through the characteristics of a traditional classroom and compose a brief description of the teacher you visualize in that classroom.
   - Next, read through the characteristics of the differentiated classroom and compose a brief description of the teacher you visualize in that classroom.
   - You have 7-10 minutes for this activity.
## A Traditional Classroom Compared with a Differentiated One (PG-16-17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Classroom</th>
<th>Differentiated Classroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Student differences are masked or acted upon when</td>
<td>1. Student differences are studied as a basis for planning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>problematic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Assessment is most common at the end of learning to see</td>
<td>2. Assessment is ongoing and diagnostic to understand how to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“who got it.”</td>
<td>make instruction more responsive to learner need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. A relatively narrow sense of intelligence prevails.</td>
<td>3. Focus on multiple forms of intelligence is evident.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. A single definition of excellence exists.</td>
<td>4. Excellence is defined by individual growth from a starting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>point.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Student interest is infrequently tapped.</td>
<td>5. Students are frequently guided in making interest-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>learning choices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Relatively few learning profile options are taken into</td>
<td>6. Many learning profile options are provided.</td>
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<tr>
<td>account.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Whole class instruction dominates.</td>
<td>7. Many instructional arrangements are used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Coverage of texts and/or curriculum guides drives</td>
<td>8. Student readiness, interest, and learning profile shape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>instruction.</td>
<td>instruction.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Mastery of facts and skills out-of-context is the focus</td>
<td>9. Use of essential skills to make sense of key Concepts and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>of learning.</td>
<td>principals is the focus of learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Single-option assignments are the norm.</td>
<td>10. Multi-option assignments are frequently used.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Time is relatively inflexible.</td>
<td>11. Time is used flexibly in accordance with student need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. A single text prevails.</td>
<td>12. Multiple materials are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Single interpretations of ideas and events may be</td>
<td>13. Multiple perspectives on ideas and events are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sought.</td>
<td>routinely sought.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. The teacher solves problems. 15. Students help one another and the teacher solve problems.

16. A single form of assessment is often used. 16. Students are assessed in multiple ways.

Carol Tomlinson, 1998.

![Traditional vs. Differentiated](image)

- Turn to page 16 of your Participant's Guide.
- In your table groups, read through the characteristics of a traditional classroom and compose a brief description of the teacher you visualize in that classroom.
- Next, read through the characteristics of the differentiated classroom and compose a brief description of the teacher you visualize in that classroom.
- You have 7-10 minutes for this activity.

4. Show slide: Traditional vs. Differentiated.

![Traditional vs. Differentiated](image)

- How are the teachers you visualized in the two classrooms similar?
- How are the teachers you visualized in the two classrooms different?
- What conclusions might we draw from these similarities and differences?

5. Allow time for participants to complete the activity, then ask:

- **How are the teachers you visualized in the two classrooms similar?** [Allow time for participants to respond.]

- **How are the teachers you visualized in the two classrooms different?** [Allow time for participants to respond.]

- **What conclusions might we draw from these similarities and differences?**
  - Responses will differ, but expect such things as:
    - Teachers will have to be able to adapt.
    - Teachers will have to be much better prepared.
    - Teachers will have to be more flexible.
    - The day of the teacher being front and center in the classroom are over.
    - Teachers can no longer assume one size fits all.
6. Present:

- Earlier today I said that differentiated instruction is more a philosophy than a particular strategy or bag of tricks.

- This philosophy involves a change in mindset, a new vision of the role of the teacher in a classroom.

- One of the ways we might begin to develop this new vision of the role of the teacher is to think metaphorically.

- Let’s begin by looking at four possible metaphors: teacher as jazz musician, and teacher as artist, teacher as coach, teacher as gardener.

- I’m placing visuals around the room to represent these metaphors. I’d like for you to move to the metaphor that seems most relevant to you as you think about differentiating your classroom.

[Trainer’s Note: The graphics for these signs are reprinted in grayscale in the appendix to this Facilitator’s Guide.]

Slide: *Teacher As...* 7. Show slide: Teacher As . . .

![Teacher As . . .](Teacher As . . .)

- Jazz Musician
- Artist
- Coach
- Gardener
8. Present:

- **Working together with others who chose the same metaphor, create a list of attributes that a teacher as jazz musician, artist, coach, or gardener might have.**

- Allow a few minutes, then ask: **How might those attributes contribute to the establishment of a differentiated classroom?**

- **Now move back to your table groups and create at least one additional metaphor for a teacher in a differentiated classroom. Think quickly, we only have a few minutes for this activity.**

- Allow no more than 5 minutes, then ask the groups to share their metaphors.
9. Show slide: The Role of the Teacher in a Differentiated Classroom.

Slide: The Role of the Teacher in a Differentiated Classroom

10. Present:

- **Tomlinson lists 7 teacher roles in a differentiated classroom:**
  - Preparing students for differentiation
  - Balancing whole-class and small-group instruction
  - Communicating with parents about differentiation
  - Teaching for individual growth
  - Coaching for individual growth
  - Helping groups work
  - Grading for excellence and equity
  - And charting individual growth

- She also specifies that teachers must provide clear directions and must be clear about learning goals.

- As we move to the last activity of the day—setting personal goals for differentiation—keep Tomlinson’s list in mind.
Setting Personal Goals for Differentiating

1. Present:

- Carol Ann Tomlinson notes that differentiated classrooms don’t magically appear overnight. She contends that it is perfectly acceptable to begin slowly as long as we do begin!

- To help teachers begin, Tomlinson has developed a list of what she calls “low-prep” and “high-prep” differentiation possibilities.

PG- 18: Low-Prep and High-Prep Differentiation

- Tomlinson’s list is reprinted on page 18 of your Participant’s Guide. Please turn to that page now.

2. Present:

PG-19: Action Plan


Trainer’s Note: The amount of time allotted here will depend on the time remaining. You need to allow time to sum up and time to go over the homework for next time.
Low-Prep and High Prep Differentiation (PG-18)

**Low-Prep Differentiation**
- Choice of books
- Homework options
- Use of reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Orbital
- Varied pacing with anchor options
- Student-teacher goal setting
- Work alone/work together
- Whole-to-part and part-to-whole explanations
- Flexible seating
- Varied computer programs
- Design-A-Day
- Varied supplementary materials
- Options for varied modes of expression
- Varying scaffolding on same organizer
- Let's Make a Deal projects
- Computer mentors
- Think-Pair-Share by readiness, interest, learning profile
- Use of collaboration, independence, and cooperation
- Open-ended activities
- Miniworkshops to reteach or extend skills
- Jigsaw
- Negotiated Criteria
- Explorations by interest
- Games to practice mastery of information and skill
- Multiple levels of questions

**High Prep-Differentiation**
- Tiered activities and labs
- Tiered products
- Independent studies
- Multiple texts
- Alternative assessments
- Learning contracts
- 4-MAT
- Multiple intelligence options
- Compacting
- Spelling by readiness
- Entry Points
- Varying organizers
- Lectures coupled with graphic organizers
- Interest groups
- Tiered centers
- Interest centers
- Personal agendas
- Literature Circles
- Stations
- Complex instruction
- Group investigation
- Tape-recorded materials
- Teams, Games, and Tournaments
- Think-Tac-Toe
- Simulations
- Problem-Based Learning
- Graduated rubrics
- Flexible reading formats
- Student-centered writing Formats

Tomlinson, How to Differentiate in Mixed-Ability Classrooms, 34.
**Action Plan (PG-19)**

**Directions:** Complete the following chart to create your individual plan for building a differentiated classroom. Consider the following:
- What am I already doing to differentiate?
- How can I assess and use student readiness, interests, and learning profiles to maximize learning growth for every student?
- How can I differentiate content, process, products, or the learning environment?
- How can I employ Tomlinson’s Equalizer to create tiered assignments, activities, tasks, and products?
- What low-prep differentiations do I want to start with?
- What higher-prep differentiations do I want to work toward?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Differentiation:</th>
<th>What</th>
<th>How</th>
<th>Why</th>
<th>By When</th>
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</table>
3. Present:

- We have just skimmed the surface of differentiation today. Please dive deeper into this topic via the resources provided to each system and RESA by the DOE as well as the other resource listed in your Day 6 materials.

4. Present:

- Day 7 of training will focus on Examining Student Work, Fairness, and Grading.

- You'll find assignments for Days 7 and 8 listed in the appendix to your Participant’s Guide.

[Trainer’s Note: The assignments are listed in the appendix to the Facilitator's Guide as well.]

- For Day 6, please bring a student work sample to training. This sample should include 4 copies of the student work, 1 copy of the assignment that generated the work including the standard(s) being assessed via this student work, and 1 copy of each of the two permission forms (teacher permission form and student/parent permission form). These forms are printed in the appendix to the Participant’s Guide.

[Trainer’s Note: The forms are printed in the appendix to the Facilitator's Guide as well.]
5. Present:

- As you work to implement the GPS standards this first year, we also like for you record your experiences in a notebook, journal, or other calendar format. Note any tasks, strategies, assessments, etc., that worked especially well; critical comments about particular standards (e.g., gaps that need filling, elements that are problematic, terms that need defining, etc.); suggestions for teachers/instructional leaders in Phase II who will be implementing the following year; thoughts or ideas about the second year of your implementation; etc. Please bring this record with you to Day 8 of training. The State Board of Education will be reviewing the GPS each year, and your comments will provide information for this review, as well as topics for discussion in training. Don’t worry, we don’t plan to collect your journals . . . just your suggestions!

Slide: Give Yourself a Hand


7. Present:

- Thanks for coming and for all that you do for Georgia’s students.

- Please remember that the staff at the DOE are available to help. Feel free to contact DOE personnel by phone or email.
Glossary

**Ability Grouping**—Grouping students according to similar readiness levels or learning profiles.

**Adjusting Questions**—A teacher (in class discussions, tests, and/or homework) adjusts the sorts of questions posed to learners based on their readiness, interests, and learning profile. This strategy is an excellent "get your feet wet" differentiation strategy because it builds on strengths and abilities readily used by most teachers.

**Alternate Assignment**—Assignments given to particular students or groups of students in lieu of the assignment given to the other members of the class. These assignments are designed to capitalize on student readiness levels, interests, or learning profiles.

**Anchor Activity**—A task or activity that a student automatically moves to upon completion of other assigned work.

**Carousel Brainstorming**—A strategy where students brainstorm responses to prompts or questions written on butcher paper and placed at five different stations around the room. Students rotate from station to station and discuss their responses with others in their group. Teachers may use carousel brainstorming as a pre-assessment tool or as a review opportunity.

**Cluster Grouping**—Flexible grouping and regrouping of students within a classroom to accommodate different instructional needs at different times and/or for different subject or content, different readiness levels, interests, or learning profiles.

**Compacting**—Modifying or streamlining content, process, or product in order to eliminate repetition of previously mastered material.

**Contracting**—Students contract for grades and/or choose from a variety of available project/product options.

**Cooperative Learning**—Students work with other students in groups to achieve a specific goal or purpose. Each group member has a particular, predetermined role in helping the group reach its goal.

**Cubing**—A versatile strategy, similar to a contract, which allows a teacher to plan different activities for different students or groups of students based on student readiness, learning style, and/or interests. The teacher creates a cube—usually different colored cubes—for different groups of students. On each of the cube's six faces, the teacher describes a different task related to the subject and/or concept being learned.

**Exit Cards**—Teacher distributes index cards to students a few minutes before the end of class. Students respond quickly to a specific prompt such as “What's the most important thing you learned today?” Exit cards provide a quick and easy method of assessing understanding.
**Flexible Grouping**—Purposeful reordering of students into a variety of different groups in a short amount of time in order to ensure that all students work with a number of different students on a regular basis. Criteria for grouping—readiness, interest, learning profile, activity or task, content—will vary regularly as well.

**4-MAT**—Teachers plan instruction for each of four learning preferences: mastery, understanding, personal involvement, and synthesis. This is based on the hypothesis that students have one of these four learning preferences. All students participate in all learning formats in order to maximize learning strengths and strengthen the weaker preferences.

**Interest Centers/Groups**—Interest centers (often used with younger learners) and groups (often used with older learners) allow students choice in an area or areas of study.

**Independent Study Projects**—A student or small group of students pursues an area of interest related to a specific topic, curricular area, or individual area of interest.

**Literature Circles**—Small groups of students read and/or study different books with varying degrees of difficulty and/or focusing on a variety of topics of interest.

**Jigsawing**—A type of collaborative work in which students read and examine a portion of a reading assignment and report what they’ve learned to the entire group; an effective way to vary content according to complexity or depth of content to match reading readiness levels; a great way to involve students in subject matter presented in text.

**KWL Charts**—A pre-assessment tool consisting of three vertical columns. Students list in one column what they know about a topic or idea and in another column, what they want to know about the topic or idea. Then, after a lesson or series of lessons, they return to the chart to list in the third column what they learned about the topic or idea.

**Most Difficult First**—A very simple first step to full-scale compacting. It is usually used with skill-type activities such as math, grammar, map reading, vocabulary, or spelling. A teacher allows students to demonstrate mastery of the five most difficult problems of an assignment and then to participate in alternate activities without having to do an entire assignment.

**Orbital Studies**—Independent investigations, generally of three to six weeks, which “orbit” or revolve around some facet of the curriculum. Students select their own topics for orbitals and work with guidance and coaching from the teacher to develop more expertise on both the topic and on the process of becoming an independent investigator.

**Personal Agendas**—A personalized list of tasks that a particular student must complete in a specified time; student agendas throughout a class will have similar and dissimilar elements on them.
Plus-Minus-Interesting Charts—A device developed by DeBono in which students summarize their findings about a particular topic or idea by listing what’s good about it, what’s possibly negative about it, and what’s interesting about it.

Product/Project Options—Students choose from a variety of options the way that they will provide evidence of learning. These options allow students to utilize their individual strengths and interests.

Pyramid Activities—Any activity that begins with students working individually, progresses through pairs, groups of four, etc., until ending with the whole-class group. A good way to review material or to practice test-taking strategies. Students may begin by individually recording what they know and then add to or change their responses as they collaborate with other students.

Questioning Strategies—Different types of questions are employed before, during, and after an activity, a lesson, or a unit of instruction to engage and challenge students to demonstrate their understanding from the knowledge level to the evaluation level. These questions allow students to clarify their thinking, increase their knowledge, and deepen their understanding.

RAFT Activities—Students select a Role, Audience, Format, and Topic for a particular task. The task vary but may include writing, oral presentations, skits, review activities, etc.

Reader’s Workshop—This student-centered, instructional model for “real reading” uses authentic literature and allows students to self-select books. Students read at their own pace, reflect on what they read, and talk about their reading with others.

Reading Buddies—One name for peer reading partners, pairs of students who assist each other in reading for comprehension. They may take turns: one reading aloud and the other summarizing OR one reading aloud while the other formulates questions about that reading, etc.

Scaffolding—This refers to any support system that enables students to succeed with tasks they find genuinely challenging.

Subject/Content Acceleration—A student or group of students moves to a higher level of at an earlier time or age than the other students.

Thinking Maps—Visual representations of ideas that allow students to “unpack” their thinking and organize ideas in a visual format rather than solely in sentences or paragraphs.

Think-Tac-Toe Extension Menu or Choice Board—A collection of activities from which a student can choose. It is generally presented in the form of a 3x3 or a 4x4 grid, similar to a tic-tac-toe board, with the center square often allowing for student choice. This format can be applied to extension activities, contracts, study guides, or independent studies. They allow a teacher to differentiate content, process and product according to different levels of student performance/readiness, interests, and learning styles.
Tiered Assignments—Teachers adjust the degree of difficulty for a particular assignment or task in order to meet the needs of students with varying levels of readiness, varying interests, and/or varying learner profiles.

Vocabulary Web—A graphic organizer based on a single vocabulary word. The word goes in the center circle; students then define the word, find synonyms and antonyms, write a sentence using the word, create analogies, and analyze the word according to word families, origin, stems, and parts of speech.

WebQuest—A programmed, self-contained activity on the Internet that allows students to perform authentic, independent tasks while using the computer. WebQuests give individuals or small groups of learners the opportunity to use research, problem solving, and basic skills as they move through a process of finding out, drawing conclusions about, and developing a product related to a topic or question. Each WebQuest consists of the same five parts: introduction, task, process, resources, and evaluation rubric.

Writer’s Workshop—This student-centered, instructional model for “real writing” uses authentic assignments that allow students to participate in differentiated activities while participating in all stages of the writing process. Students spend time on self-selected writing activities.
Appendix

Pre-Assessing the English Language Learner

Framework for Understanding the Learning of PHLOTÉ® ELL Students: Who Am I Teaching?

Stages of Language Acquisition

- **NEP** – no verbal production, focus on listening comprehension, build receptive vocabulary; draw, copy, act…
- **Beginner** – one, two word responses, production of known structures; name, list, label …
- **Intermediate** – simple sentences, developing higher levels of language/thinking; recall, define, restate, summarize, contrast …
- **Advanced** – complex errors in speech and print; focuses on reading and writing correctly, analyze, support, evaluate, create …
- **Transition** – fluency approaches native speaker, focus on writing mechanics; all approaches native mechanics; all

Culture

- Religion
- Child rearing practices
- Male/female roles
- Beliefs about success & failure
- Morality
- Proxemics
- Time
- Humor
- Acculturation stage
- Affective filter
- Motivation incentives
- Social class - Poverty!!

ACADEMIC SKILLS

(Prior & current Academic Records)

EXPERIENTIAL BACKGROUND

(Culture and Prior Living Experiences)

INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

UbD, Learning Focused Schools

Brazosport's model and other research based strategies

Academic Modification Plan for ELLs

Alternative Assessments

Prior Academic History

- Academic calendar
- School day setup
- Native literacy skills level
- Kind of skills & knowledge
- Student's developmental stage at departure/arrival
- Instructional delivery method
- Parents educational level
- Native language structure & phonological system

ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

(Stages of Language Acquisition)

Georgia GCC, GPS and/or System's Adopted Academic INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES

UbD, Learning Focused Schools

Brazosport's model and other research based strategies

Academic Modification Plan for ELLs

Alternative Assessments

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Instructional Accommodations for ELLs

Accommodations for ELLS are appropriate and effective only to the level that these match the English language learners proficiency in English, prior academic knowledge and cultural learning patterns.

- give tests orally rather than in written form
- give more time to complete
- assignments
- allow same-language buddy to assist
- require fewer responses to demonstrate mastery
- permit incomplete sentences in responses
- permit ungrammatically correct sentences in responses
- provide lower level text on content material
- provide video on content material
- provide text on tape
- highlight key points
- reduce number of key points that student is responsible for knowing
- give advanced organizers/study guides
- permit open book tests
- use graphic organizers
- give written instructions as well as oral
- make a written record of instruction and display it on chart paper
- take time to develop students’ prior knowledge of new topics
- increase % of student talk about topic (more discussions)
- break students into small groups for discussion
- plan for group work
- use demonstrations when possible
- present model of work done well at the beginning of the assignment
- use hands-on activities when possible
- give sufficient wait time after asking questions
- adapt homework requirements to reflect stage of language development
- use performance based assessment when possible
- adapt project/assignment requirements so students can participate
- provide learning centers (language masters, books on tape, magazines for classifying and developing picture dictionaries, language based games)
- provide computer time (phonics software, *Kidspiration* graphic organizer software, internet)
- seat student near teacher or positive role models
• relate content to real life
• present tasks from easy to hard
• reduce details needed to learn main concepts
• use simpler vocabulary or paraphrase
• provide additional examples
• pair verbal directions with visual clues
• look at students when talking
• use audio-visual aids frequently
• provide student with outline of lesson notes
• use peer assisted note taking
• use role-playing
• use games
• provide self-checking materials
• use different colors for worksheets
• use enlarged type on worksheets
• reduce the length or amount of work
• mark only correct answers
• do NOT write the name of a Korean student in red…it means death
• give short quizzes/avoid long tests
• allow the use of a dictionary during tests
• allow student to take tests until passes/emphasize mastery
Georgia Department of Education, GPS Differentiation Menu

For students who have difficulty with writing/composing written material:
- cooperative learning groups
- word processing application
- dictation to a scribe or onto a tape
- demonstrate/role play
- oral responses, presentation, and assessments
- multi-media presentation
- graphic organizer
- extended time on timed tasks
- word prediction software
- Co-Writer, Write Out Loud, Dragon Naturally Speaking, or other software
- voice output computer programs
- spell check/grammar check (not allowed on standardized tests)
- task item rubrics
- teacher prepared format
- bread work into manageable parts
- individual or small group test taking
- story starters
- sentence starters
- outlines
- tape recorded essays and oral presentations
- voice activated software
- portable word processor
- prewriting conference/prewriting activities
- illustrations
- K-W-L chart
- provide sample work
- debates
- proofreading checklist
- word bank/word wall
- matrix usage
- note taking assistance
- provide student with key words on essay tests
- abbreviate assignments
- adapted writing tools or other assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who have difficulty with reading/accessing written material:
- cooperative learning groups/group discussion
- extended time on timed tasks
- voice output computer programs
• talking dictionaries
• break work into manageable parts/presentation of small chunks of a passage
• individual or small group test taking
• testing with reader or scanable text readers
• books on tape/listening to recording/viewing film version of story
• text read to the student by adult or peer
• reading guides (highlighted text, summaries, etc.)
• Language Master
• tracking light or other tracking device
• colored overlays
• computer generated books
• answer “yes/no” questions for comprehension checks
• choral reading
• pre-reading summary
• electronic text (text reader)
• oral (or audio) presentation to student
• teacher introduction of vocabulary words
• paired reading
• picture cues
• illustrations to show comprehension
• *CoWriter, Write Out Loud, other software
• K-W-L chart
• previewing topics to introduce vocabulary and key concepts
• listening guide to facilitate note taking
• links to prior knowledge/personal experience
• debates
• word bank/word wall
• other assistive technology, as appropriate

**For students who have difficulty speaking:**
• sign language interpreter/transliterator
• augmentative communication devices
• communication boards
• cooperative learning groups
• usage of other preferred means of communication
• demonstrate/play act tasks
• picture symbol program
• object symbols
• object symbols
• voice output computer programs
• break work into manageable parts
• provide time to respond
• ask “yes/no” questions
• indicating correct answer by pointing
• assign written rather than oral reports
• avoid situations that create pressure
• other assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who have difficulty **listening**:
• cooperative learning groups
• visual presentation using computer software, such as *PowerPoint* or *Inspiration*
• break work into manageable parts
• repeat, rephrase, simplify statements and instructions
• provide time to respond
• use of literal, concrete speech
• visual aids
• preferential seating
• note taking assistance (copy or notes/note-taking guides/note taker)
• have student repeat instructions
• reinforce oral instructions with written instructions
• assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who have difficulty with **mobility**:
• cooperative learning groups
• switch use
• touch screen
• modified keyboards
• extended time on timed tasks (or waive timed tasks)
• modified handwriting and/or grid paper
• weighted pencils and other motoric devices
• slant board or wedge
• magnets, tape, or other paper stabilizers
• stabilized materials
• break work into manageable parts
• individual or small group test taking
• provide time to respond
• page turner
• flexible schedule/scheduled rest breaks
• provide assistance in manipulating classroom and personal materials
• note taking assistance
• adaptive or special furniture
• dictation to a scribe or onto a tape
• other assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who have difficulty attending to **task**:
• cooperative learning groups with specific tasks assigned
• rubrics
• graphic organizers
• extended time on timed tasks
• break work into manageable parts
• individual or small group test taking
• task analysis
• task analysis graphically displayed
• proximity control
• visual, verbal, and tactile cues
• gain student’s attention before delivery of information
• flexible schedule/scheduled rest breaks
• preferential seating
• note taking assistance
• provide study guides for tests
• have student repeat instructions
• regular notebook/agenda checks
• give abbreviated assignments
• set time allotments for tasks
• organizer/daily planner/homework notebook/folders
• fewer items on each page
• allow students to mark answers in workbooks and test booklets
• select optimal time of day for assessments
• provide study carrel or other quiet work space with minimal distractions
• assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who have difficulty with **organizations/study skills**:  
• cooperative learning groups
• graphic organizers
• extended time on timed tasks
• break work into manageable parts
• individual or small group test taking
• task analysis
• task analysis graphically displayed
• organizer/daily planner/homework notebook/folders
• provide time to respond
• preferential seating
• provide sample work
• task item rubrics
• provide study guides for tests
• have student repeat instructions
• regular notebook/agenda checks
• set time allotments for task
• fewer items on each page
• provide study carrel or other quiet work space with minimal distractions
• provide books to remain at home
• establish and post daily routines
• allow students to mark answers in workbooks and test booklets
• assistive technology, as appropriate

For students who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing:
• sign language interpreter/transliterator
• amplification equipment
• sound-treated classrooms/special acoustics
• visual presentation using computer software, such as PowerPoint or Inspiration
• highlighted vocabulary
• closed captioning for viewing movies and other video presentations
• cooperative learning groups
• demonstrate/play act tasks
• voice output computer programs
• individual or small group test taking
• give short, specific verbal instructions
• story webs
• story starters
• Write Out Loud, CoWriter, or other software
• peer scribe
• note taking assistance
• provision of class notes with critical information, test questions, and highlighted vocabulary
• preferential seating
• refrain from speaking with back turned to students
• provide a work space with minimal noise
• other communication aids (assistive technology), as appropriate

For students who are Visually Impaired:
• Braille text/Braille writer
• enlarged print
• print with optical devices
• tactile symbols
• calendar system
• auditory and electronic formats
• dark or raised line paper
• cooperative learning groups
• slant board
• individual or small group test taking
• low vision devices/magnifying equipment
• screen readers/text scanners
• audiotaped directions and text (Talking Books for the Blind)
• word processing program with voice output
• electronic Braille note takers
• positioning in class away from glare
• black print handouts
• primary typewriter
• preferential seating
• usage of grid paper
• special or adapted lighting
• other alternate formats, communication aids, or assistive technology, as appropriate
# Student-Created Products

## Verbal
- anecdote
- audio recording
- ballad
- book report
- campaign speech
- characterization
- choral reading
- cinquain
- comedy act
- comparison
- conference
- couplet
- debate
- description
- dialog
- documentary
- dramatization
- explanation
- fairy tale/tall tale
- free verse
- interview
- jingle
- joke
- lecture
- lesson
- limerick
- mock interview
- monologue
- myth
- newscast
- nursery rhyme
- oral report
- panel discussion
- quatrAIN
- radio show
- radio commercial
- rap
- recorded dialogue
- rhyme
- switchweaving

## Visual
- riddle
- role-play
- song
- speech
- story telling
- survey
- advertisement
- CD cover
- anagram
- animation
- annotated biblio.
- area graph
- artifact collection
- award
- banner
- bar graph
- blueprint
- book jacket
- booklet
- bookmark
- brochure
- bulletin board
- calendar
- cardboard relief
- cartoon
- chart
- checklist
- collage
- collection
- comic book
- costume
- cross-section
- crossword puzzle
- design
- diagram
- diorama
- display
- drawing
- film
- dialog
- filmstrip
- flag
- flashcard
- flip chart
- flowchart
- game
- graphic
- greeting card
- hieroglyphic
- icon
- id chart
- illustration
- layout
- map
- mask
- mobile
- mosaic
- movie
- newscast
- outline
- painting
- pattern
- pennant
- photo essay
- photograph
- picture dictionary
- picture story
- pie chart
- playing card
- print
- puzzle
- scatter graph
- scenario
- scrap book
- scroll
- sign
- silk screen
- slide show
- stencil
- TV commercial
- timeline
- letter to editor
- transparency
- travel ad
- travel log
- tree chart
- video tape
- wall hanging
- weather map
- weaving
- web
- web page
- window shade
- word game
- word search

## Kinesthetic
- apparatus
- aquarium
- artifacts
- card game
- cardboard relief
- ceramics
- charade
- circuit boards
- clothing
- collage
- collection
- dance
- demonstration
- discovery center
- display
- dramatization
- equipment
- etching
- experiment
- fair
- food
- furniture
- gadget
- game
- hat
- imaginary play
- patent
- improvisation
- instrument
- invention
- jigsaw puzzle
- kite
- laboratory
- learning center
- macramé
- mime
- mobile
- model
- origami
- parallel play
- paper mache
- play
- prototype
- puppet
- finger puppet
- marionette
- hand puppet
- puppet show
- puzzle
- quilt
- relief rubbing
- role play
- sand casting
- scavenger hunt
- service
- sewing cards
- shadow box
- simulation
- skit
- soap sculpture
- stage set
- stitchery
- terrarium
- tie-dye
- tool
- toy
- uniform
- vehicle
- riddle
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wire sculpture</th>
<th>Dictionary</th>
<th>Limerick</th>
<th>Pen pal</th>
<th>Satire</th>
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<td><strong>Written</strong></td>
<td>Editorial</td>
<td>List</td>
<td>Petition</td>
<td>Science fiction</td>
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<td>Advertisement</td>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Log</td>
<td>Plan</td>
<td>Scroll</td>
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<td>Autobiography</td>
<td>Fairy tale/tall tale</td>
<td>Lyrics</td>
<td>Play</td>
<td>Short story</td>
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<td>Book report</td>
<td>Field manual</td>
<td>Magazine</td>
<td>Poem</td>
<td>Skit</td>
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<td>Booklet</td>
<td>Free verse</td>
<td>Magazine article</td>
<td>Prediction</td>
<td>Slogan</td>
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<td>Brochure</td>
<td>Friendly letter</td>
<td>Manual</td>
<td>Profile</td>
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<td>Glossary</td>
<td>Metaphor</td>
<td>Puppet show</td>
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<td>Characterization</td>
<td>Guidebook</td>
<td>Myth</td>
<td>Questionnaire</td>
<td>Story problems</td>
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<td>Classified ad</td>
<td>Handbook</td>
<td>New story ending</td>
<td>Questions</td>
<td>Survey</td>
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<td>Comic book</td>
<td>Handout</td>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Radio script</td>
<td>Telegram</td>
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<td>Interview script</td>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>Rating scale</td>
<td>TV script</td>
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<td>Computer prog.</td>
<td>Joke book</td>
<td>Newspaper article</td>
<td>Reason</td>
<td>Term paper</td>
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<td>Couplet</td>
<td>Jot list</td>
<td>Notes</td>
<td>Recipe</td>
<td>Test</td>
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<td>Creative writing</td>
<td>Journal article</td>
<td>Novel</td>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>Travel log</td>
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<td>Critique</td>
<td>Label</td>
<td>Oath</td>
<td>Report</td>
<td>Vocabulary list</td>
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<td>Database</td>
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<td>Outline</td>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>Yearbook</td>
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<td>Description</td>
<td>Lesson plan</td>
<td>Pamphlet</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Parody</td>
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From GA Dept. of Education *Curriculum Guide for the Education of Gifted Students*, by Jim Curry and John Samara
Product Possibilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Design a web page</th>
<th>Design political cartoons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop a solution to a community problem</td>
<td>Formulate &amp; defend a theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a public service announcement</td>
<td>Conduct a training session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a book</td>
<td>Design &amp; teach a class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design a game</td>
<td>Do a demonstration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Generate &amp; circulate a petition</td>
<td>Present a news report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Write a series of letters</td>
<td>Write a new law &amp; plan for its passage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a mime</td>
<td>Make learning centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; create a needlework</td>
<td>Create authentic recipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead a symposium</td>
<td>Choreograph dances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build a planetarium</td>
<td>Present a mock trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a series of interviews</td>
<td>Make a plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a collection</td>
<td>Compile &amp; annotate a set of Internet resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Submit writings to a journal, magazine, or newspaper</td>
<td>Design a new product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpret through multimedia</td>
<td>Write a series of songs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design a structure</td>
<td>Create a subject dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; conduct an experiment</td>
<td>Make and carry out a plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collect &amp; analyze samples</td>
<td>Design a simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan a journey or an odyssey</td>
<td>Write a musical</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make an etching or a woodcut</td>
<td>Develop a museum exhibit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writer letters to the editor</td>
<td>Be a mentor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Write or produce a play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile a newspaper</td>
<td>Develop an exhibit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct an ethnography</td>
<td>Write a biography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a photo-essay</td>
<td>Conduct a debate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold a press conference</td>
<td>Make a video documentary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop &amp; use a questionnaire</td>
<td>Create a series of illustrations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct a debate</td>
<td>Write poems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make a video documentary</td>
<td>Develop tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design or create musical instruments</td>
<td>Compile a booklet or brochure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compile a newspaper</td>
<td>Draw a set of blueprints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present a radio program</td>
<td>Present a radio program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do a puppet show</td>
<td>Create a series of wall hangings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create a series of illustrations</td>
<td>Go on an archeological dig</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; make costumes</td>
<td>Present an interior monologue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Present an interior monologue</td>
<td>Generate charts or diagrams to explain ideas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teacher As . . . Graphics

[Graphics of a person playing a trumpet, a stack of frames, a person leaning against a wall, and a person reading a book]

Page 87
Assignments for Days 7 and 8 of GPS Training

For Day 7 for all grade levels and all content areas:

Each participant should bring a student work sample to Day 7 of training. This sample should include 4 copies of the student work, 1 copy of the assignment that generated the work including the standard(s) being assessed via this student work, and 1 copy of each of the two permission forms (teacher permission form and student/parent permission form). These forms are in the Participant’s Guide for Day 6 of the training.

For Day 8 for all grade levels and all content areas:

As you work to implement the GPS standards this first year, please record your experiences in a notebook, journal, or other calendar format. Note any tasks, strategies, assessments, etc., that worked especially well; critical comments about particular standards (e.g., gaps that need filling, elements that are problematic, terms that need defining, etc.); suggestions for teachers/instructional leaders in Phase II who will be implementing the following year; thoughts or ideas about the second year of your implementation; etc. Please bring this record with you to Day 8 of training. The State Board of Education will be reviewing the GPS each year, and your comments will provide information for this review, as well as topics for discussion in training.
Permission Forms for Student Work

CONSENT AND ASSIGNMENT

This Consent and Assignment (the “Assignment”) is effective when signed by the undersigned Georgia educator (“Educator”) and is between Educator and the Georgia Department of Education (the “GDOE”). For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree:

1. GDOE gratefully acknowledges the contribution Educator is hereby making to GDOE of the original work product (the “Work Product”) created, developed, worked on or revised by Educator in connection with GDOE’s Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). So that GDOE may fully use the Work Product in any manner it sees fit, including making copies, modifications and derivative works, Educator hereby fully and unconditionally transfers, assigns and conveys to GDOE all of Educator’s copyright, ownership interests and other intellectual property rights in the Work Product (collectively, the “Intellectual Property Rights”). Educator further agrees that GDOE may publicly recognize and acknowledge Educator’s contribution to, and involvement in, the Project.

2. This Assignment is governed by Georgia law, can only be amended if both parties do so in writing, is assignable solely by GDOE and supersedes any contrary oral or written agreement or understanding. Educator grants to GDOE the power and authority to execute any documentation deemed necessary by GDOE to register or protect the Work Product or Intellectual Property Rights therein or complete the full transfer of the Work Product and Intellectual Property Rights to GDOE which is the purpose of this Assignment.

“Educator”

Signature: 
________________________________________

Print Name: 
________________________________________

“GDOE”

Georgia Department of Education

By: 
________________________________________

Title: 
________________________________________

Date: 
________________________________________
CONSENT AND ASSIGNMENT

This Consent and Assignment (the “Assignment”) is effective when signed by the undersigned legal guardian (“Guardian”) on behalf of the Guardian and minor Georgia student named below (“Student”), and is among Guardian, Student and the Georgia Department of Education (the “GDOE”). For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree:

1. GDOE gratefully acknowledges the contribution Student and Guardian are hereby making to GDOE of the original work product (the “Work Product”) created, developed, worked on or revised by Student. So that GDOE may fully use the Work Product in any manner it sees fit in connection with GDOE’s Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), including making copies, modifications and derivative works, Guardian on behalf of Guardian and Student (and their heirs and successors) hereby fully and unconditionally transfer, assign and convey to GDOE all of Student’s and Guardian’s copyright, ownership interests and other intellectual property rights in the Work Product (collectively, the “Intellectual Property Rights”). Guardian further agrees that GDOE may publicly recognize and acknowledge Student’s contribution to, and involvement in, the Project.

2. This Assignment is governed by Georgia law, can only be amended if both parties do so in writing, is assignable solely by GDOE and supersedes any contrary oral or written agreement or understanding. Student grants to GDOE the power and authority to execute any documentation deemed necessary by GDOE to register or protect the Work Product or Intellectual Property Rights therein or complete the full transfer of the Work Product and Intellectual Property Rights to GDOE which is the purpose of this Assignment.

“Guardian”
Signature: __________________________________________
Print Guardian’s Name: __________________________
Relationship to Minor: __________________________
Print Minor’s Name: __________________________

“GDOE”
Georgia Department of Education
By: __________________________________________
Title: __________________________________________
Date: __________________________________________
Sample Tasks for “Differentiation Stratego: A Reality Game”

Sample Task 1:

The Standard
ELAKR2 The student demonstrates the ability to identify and orally manipulate words and individual sounds within those spoken words. The student
d. Segments the phonemes in high-frequency words.
e. Blends spoken phonemes to make high-frequency words.

The Task
During instruction, the teacher will start by saying a two-sound word (e.g. it). The students will segment the word. (e.g. /i/ /t/). Continue the activity by adding different initial sounds. Students will use sound boxes to manipulate sounds while playing “say it move it”. “s” in the first box, “a” in the next box and “t” in the last box. Slide the letters together to say the whole word.
Sample Task 2:

**The Standard**

**Vocabulary:**

ELAKR5: The student acquires and uses grade-level words to communicate effectively.

The student

a. Listens to a variety of texts and uses new vocabulary in oral language.
b. Discusses the meaning of words and understands that some words have multiple meanings.

**The Task**

During read-aloud sessions, the teacher will read books that focus on words with multiple meaning (i.e., *Cook A Doodle-Do* by Janet Stevens. Students will discuss the meaning of some of the words from the story with multiple meanings.)
Sample Task 3:

**The Standard**
ELA1R1 The student demonstrates knowledge of concepts of print. The student

a. Understands that there are correct spellings for words.

b. Demonstrates an understanding that punctuation and capitalization are used in all written sentences.

**The Task**
After reading a story, students will write in their journals a 2-3 sentence paragraph telling their favorite part of the story. The students will focus on the use of correct spellings and the use of correct punctuation and capitalization.
Sample Task 4:

_The Standard_
ELA1R3: The student demonstrates the relationship between letters and letter combinations of written words and the sounds of spoken words. The student

| g. Uses spelling patterns to recognize words.

_The Task_
The student will manipulate magnetic letters on a cookie sheet to demonstrate the recognition of spelling patterns in words (word families). For example, the student will place “m” in front of “at” to make “mat”. Then the student will substitute an “s” to make “sat”. The student will continue to manipulate letters making additional words.
Sample Task 5:

*The Standard*

ELA1R6: The student uses a variety of strategies to understand and gain meaning from grade-level text.

m. Recognizes and uses graphic features and graphic organizers to understand text.

*The Task*

After the teacher presents lessons on story elements (setting, characters, story problems, story solutions) using narrative text, the student will draw and write important facts about each element on a graphic organizer. *(A sample graphic organizer might be a sheet of paper folded into four sections, each labeled as a story element.)*
Sample Task 6:

*The Standards*

ELA2R3 The student acquires and uses grade-level words to communicate effectively.

The student

b. Recognizes grade appropriate words with multiple meanings.

*The Task*

The students will illustrate on chart paper the multiple meanings of a selected list of words.
Sample Task 7:

The Standards

ELA3C1: The student demonstrates understanding and control of the rules of the English language, realizing that usage involves the appropriate application of Conventions and grammar in both written and spoken forms.

I. Uses common rules of spelling and corrects words using dictionaries and other resources.

The Task

The Student will complete a spelling contract. The contract will include 15 ways to practice spelling words. Contract will include these activities:

- Alphabetize words (5 points)
- Divide words into syllables (5 points)
- Write words and circle vowels (5 points)
- Write words and circle consonants (5 points)
- Make a set of flash cards (5 points)
- Write words neatly 5 times (5 points)
- Write a sentence with each word (10 points)
- Write a synonym or antonym for each word (10 points)
- Draw a picture and “hide” your words (10 points)
- Cut 10 words from a magazine and make a collage (15 points)
- Find 10 words in textbook and reading materials (15 points)
- Use 5 to 10 words in a poem and recite to the class (15 points)
- Write a story using 15 words (20 points)
- Write the definition of each word (20 points)
- Make a Word Search or crossword puzzle with your words (20 points)
- Student may earn a maximum of (50 points)
Sample Task 8:

The Standard
ELA3R3: The student uses a variety of strategies to understand and gain meaning from grade-level text.
   d. Distinguishes fact from opinion.
   q. Formulates and defends an opinion about a text.

The Task
When given an assortment of 8-10 sentences consisting of facts and opinions from the selected grade-level text the student using a T-chart will categorize the sentences as either fact or opinion and defend their choices with information from the text.