

# Differentiated Instruction in Geography

Curriculum Development Officer

## Differentiation...

- is NOT a set of strategies ...
- is a **way of thinking** about teaching & learning

<http://www.diffcentral.com>

Mindset → Connections

Teachers must connect with all students in an effort to teach them well...

Arthur G. Powell

## Caring Teachers ...

...can help disengaged, passive, confused, or discouraged students become connected to school and to learning. By making their commitments to students and subjects regularly visible, some teachers emerge as stimulating personalities who breathe life into learning... Positive relationships with their instructors can motivate students when other incentives fail.

Lessons from Privilege  
by Arthur G. Powell

Mindset → Connections → Community

Working like colleagues

Each student's need for a "next" step

Fair as each student getting what he/she needs to succeed

Establish the framework for a responsive classroom...

Responsibility for own growth

Competition against self (vs. others)

Belief: We win or lose together

Enables students to work as a team

## Quality differentiated instruction

- is rooted in **meaningful curriculum**

# KUD

Know

- Facts
- Vocabulary
- Definitions

Understand

- Principles / generalizations
- Big ideas of the discipline

Be able to DO

- Processes
- Skills

Teachers may **vary the KNOWs & DOs** with caution and based on evidence...

## Teaching UP!!

- create the richest, highest quality curriculum
- Then, **differentiate** to enable most students to succeed with it.

## Quality DI is guided by on-going assessment

- For **planning**
- For **feedback**
- For **guiding students**, not judging them
- **Before, during & after** – not just after

What can be assessed?



## R.A.F.T.

- **R**ole
- **A**udience
- **F**ormat
- **T**opic

## Learning contracts & Menus

- Format
- Precise directions
- Due date

**Menu**

- **Main Dish**
- **Side Dish**
- **Dessert**

Compulsory / Must Do

Electives / Choose to Do

Optional

## Linear Style Contract Sample

### Geography – Reading Contract

Due date: \_\_\_\_\_

Essential questions: \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Procedure:

1. (Whole class) Review essential questions and complete ...
2. (Group) Read your article together as a group...
3. (Individual) In your notebook, complete ...
4. (Group or Whole class) Be prepared to lead a class discussion on the information you learned, using the essential questions as your guide.

I understand the assignment & my individual responsibilities. I will complete the contract to the best of my ability.

Student signature & date:

## Hands-on Practice - RAFT

- Short duration
- Topic ⇒ Key concepts of an issue / elective
- Role, audience & format ⇒ vary to cater for learner needs
- To help students focus on writing and reasoning
- Openness, variety and creativity

## Differentiated Instruction (RAFT)

### Readiness

- Skills
- Content / knowledge
- Concepts / Principles

### Interest

- Concepts
- Areas of strength

### Motivation

### Learning profile

- Areas of strength
- Concepts

### Efficiency

~ Thank You ~