

HOW TO DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTION

At a glance

Differentiation is an approach to teaching that caters to **individual student needs**. It's about acknowledging the **diverse learning styles, interests, and readiness levels** in your classroom and adjusting your instruction accordingly. This ensures every student has the opportunity to **thrive and reach their full potential**.

You don't need a separate lesson plan for each student! Instead, modify your approach within the same lesson by providing:

- **Choice boards:** Offer several options for students to demonstrate their understanding, like writing an essay, creating a presentation, or recording a podcast.
- **Tiered activities:** Provide varying difficulty levels within the same activity, allowing students to choose based on their readiness.
- **Menu of options:** Offer a selection of tasks or resources that students can choose from based on their interests or preferred learning style.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

Student Readiness

Pre-assess student understanding through quizzes, discussions, or exit tickets. This helps you tailor instruction to address varying levels of prior knowledge. **Offer tiered activities** with different levels of complexity or difficulty to cater to individual needs.

2

Student Interest

Involve students in choosing topics or activities that align with their interests. This can be done through surveys, brainstorming sessions, or student-led projects. **Connect learning to real-world applications** that resonate with student interests. This fosters engagement and helps them see the relevance of the material.

3

Student Learning Profile

Learn about different learning styles (visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and incorporate various instructional strategies like graphic organizers, discussions, and hands-on activities to cater to diverse learning preferences. **Provide choices** in how students demonstrate their understanding, such as writing assignments, presentations, or creating multimedia projects. This allows them to showcase their learning in ways that best suit their strengths.

Notes: