

Ideas for Differentiating Instruction—Interest

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide resources with various topic choices (for example, allow students to choose a topic that interests them—argumentation essay or research report topic, historical figure, complex text, and so forth). • Provide different reading genres (such as biography or autobiography) and media formats to learn about a topic. • Conduct literature or nonfiction circles. • Use student-generated questions in lecture and Socratic discussions.
Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow students to choose apps and online tools. • Conduct jigsaw activities based on topic of interest. • Allow students to choose or create interest centers. • Create or find games and appropriately assign them to individuals, pairs, or groups based on interest. • Assign varied journal prompts according to interest. • Preselect websites for students to choose from as they investigate a research question. • Create and issue sets of manipulatives and cubing prompts based on interest. • Allow students to choose subtopics within a greater unit. For example, in a unit on colonial life, allow students to choose an individual topic—clothing, art, or religion—as the focus for an activity; in mathematics, create a scale drawing of a self-selected object.
Product
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with students to devise an independent study that culminates in a product; provide criteria for quality of product and clear work expectations. • Assign students to collect a sampling of their best work in a portfolio. • Allow students to determine a community need and create (or participate in) a service-learning project. • Provide student choice in a topic of interest as the basis for a culminating project. • Allow students to select and respond to an essay question to demonstrate understanding.