

Strategies for Differentiating Instruction “Three Essentials”

ESSENTIAL #1: BASED ON CONTENT

- What you teach and expect the students to learn
- Use pre-assessments to determine where students are
- Use reading materials at various levels
- Re-teach ideas or skills for struggling learners
- Develop enrichment/extension activities for advanced learners

ESSENTIAL #2: BASED ON PROCESS

- How you teach and expect the students to learn
- Provide a variety of materials which target the standard
- Put students in flexible small groups (ability, mixed ability, cooperative, interest, etc.)
- Use a variety of instructional delivery methods (e.g., videos, readings, lectures)
- Vary length of time students have to complete tasks

ESSENTIAL #3: BASED ON PRODUCT

- How you expect the students to demonstrate what they have learned
- Assess informally and while in the act of learning (formative)
- Give students a menu of options for demonstrating their learning – some required and some student choice
- Use rubrics that match and extend students' varied skill levels
- Encourage students to create their own product assignments (as long as assignments contain required elements)