

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)