

7 PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

Principle One: Start where your students are: *Use the social and cultural capital students bring with them to the classroom to help them acquire the intellectual capital of the classroom.*

- Cognitive Empathy: Seek to understand what your students bring to the classroom with them each day
- Understand and respect cultural capital

Principle Two: Know where they are going: *Define a vision for what students will look like at the end of their time with you and clearly communicate this to students.*

- Back-Map: Plan with the end in mind
- Communicate high expectations for all students
- Be specific about what mastery is
- Provide samples of the type of work you expect

Principle Three: Expect to get them there: *Expectations are not based on who the students are; they are based on who the students will be by the time you are finished with them.*

- Confront the brutal facts
- Maintain unwavering faith

Principle Four: Explain to them how they will get there: *Use scaffolding to demystify the academic process.*

- Show students HOW to study for your course
- Model effective practice
- Acceleration
- Remediation
- Graphic Organizers
- Intervention Cycles

Principle Five: Measure progress and give feedback *Use assessments as feedback to help your students adjust performance so that they can make better progress towards their goal.*

- Use a variety of assessment techniques
- Use assessment results to adjust the course to better meet student needs
- Provide formative assessments to measure progress towards mastery
- Specific, growth-oriented feedback
- Timely feedback
- Grade Tracking Sheets

Principle Six: Take the quickest, most direct route *Focus on quality versus quantity.*

- Only assign work that will advance student learning
- No busy work
- Fewer homework assignments and worksheets
- Distributed practice versus full-length performance every time
- Creative use of time

Principle Seven: Never work harder than your students. Understand and effectively distribute your work and the students' work.

- Analytic Rubrics
- Your work versus their work
- Cooperative Learning (pairs and triads)
- Create a classroom community focused on learning
- Study Groups