

Chapter 3: How Do They Prepare to Teach

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Five-minute “Focused” Free Write

Write about (and then share) one thing you do as a teacher that is effective for student learning.

- Modeling Reflection

How do we prepare to teach?

Start with course outcomes:

- What should the students know ?
- What should the students be able to do ?
- What changes of thought should the students have?

How does a teacher foster these outcomes?

- They ask students to “do” rather than to “learn.”

How do we prepare to teach?

Plan backwards!

- What are the “big questions” students should explore?
- Define the skills and abilities students need to accomplish the outcomes.
- Develop a plan (sequence of activities) that helps students reason toward the answers.
- Begin with the results and design an academic path to get there.

How do we prepare to teach?

Think through the **mental constructs that need challenging.**

- Provide a sequence of experiences that will encourage students to refine their thinking about the subject of the course.
- Challenge assumptions.
- Create situations and give them reading materials that will challenge their fundamental conceptions.

How do we prepare to teach?

Build on prior knowledge!

- Figure out what the students know and don't know.
- Structure information for students so they can continue to build their understanding.
- Be aware if the students are ready to move to the next set of material or if they need more practice with the current subject.
- Help students look for and **make connections**.
- Link subject matter to current events to make it relevant to their lives.

How do we prepare to teach?

Assess student learning!

- How can the teacher see the progress of student learning?
- How can the students see their own progress?
- Ask students to reflect.
- Have them assess their own work for purposes of improvement.
- Give them opportunities to think about what they are learning.

How do we prepare to teach?

Give feedback!

- Create an environment in which students can reason together and challenge each other.
- Give students opportunities to struggle with problems and then give them feedback and the opportunity to try again before grading.
- Have students assess their own learning.
- Make sure feedback is timely and specific.
- Use exit cards, one-minute papers, “popcorn.”

How do we prepare to teach?

Create a **safe learning environment** that **encourages risk taking!**

- Think about how to form groups.
- Create authentic situations/experiences that challenge the students' thinking.

How do we prepare to teach?

Be sure to include the following:

- Create a community within the class.
- Look for opportunities for students to engage in deep learning by refining their reasoning capacities.
- Make sure students are actively involved in the learning process.
- Allow for pauses so students can think and process material.

Additional Ideas to Include...

- Model learning for students.
- “Talk Aloud” to model how you think through a problem, assignment, or task.
- Develop a strong discipline-specific vocabulary.
- Teach students how to read complex text.

Remember

- Be a coach, not a judge.
- Foster learning – don't just teach.
- Listen to your students.
- Provide alternative teaching methods.
- Don't give up...when you try new strategies it may take doing them over a few times before they work well. This is true for both the teachers and students but these strategies improve teacher effectiveness and student learning over time.

Questions?