

Initial Thoughts

It is important to understand what differentiation is, why it's important, and how to differentiate. This page is meant to help you better understand differentiation and how to apply it.

Click [here](#) to complete the **Differentiation Sorting Activity**. You will refer back to this later in the **module**.

Exploring Differentiated Instruction

1. What is Differentiation? **Responding to the needs of all learners**

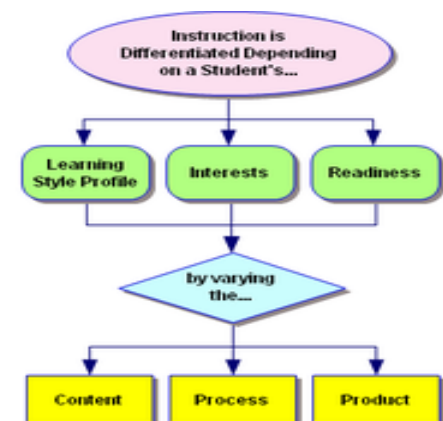
The idea of differentiating instruction is an approach to teaching that advocates active planning for and attention to student differences in classrooms, in the context of high quality curriculums.

(www.caroltomlinson.com)

2. Why is it important?

Today's students are more diverse than ever. Why does this matter to us as educators? Click the link below to read an article about why it is so important to differentiate in the classroom. [Why Differentiate?](#)

3. Content, Process, Product



Click the link below to learn about differentiating using Content, Process, and Product.

[Reading Rockets](#)

Content: Content is just what it sounds like. Content is *what the students are being taught*. Content can be differentiated in many ways. Materials can be given to students a variety of materials that cover a range of ability and or grade levels. By differentiating content, students can begin in different places in the curriculum and they can advance at different rates.

Process: The process is *how* students learn the content they are taught. For example, are students grouped by interest, by level, are they given manipulative, are you using videos, music, whole group instruction, etc.

Product: Product refers to how students show what they've learned. When students show their learning by creating a product they should be given choices about how and what to produce. They could also be given the choice to create independently, in small groups, or in pairs. Teachers may choose to use rubrics to score products. so that students individual skill levels are assessed. This will create consistency in the grading process.

4. Differentiated Instructional Strategies

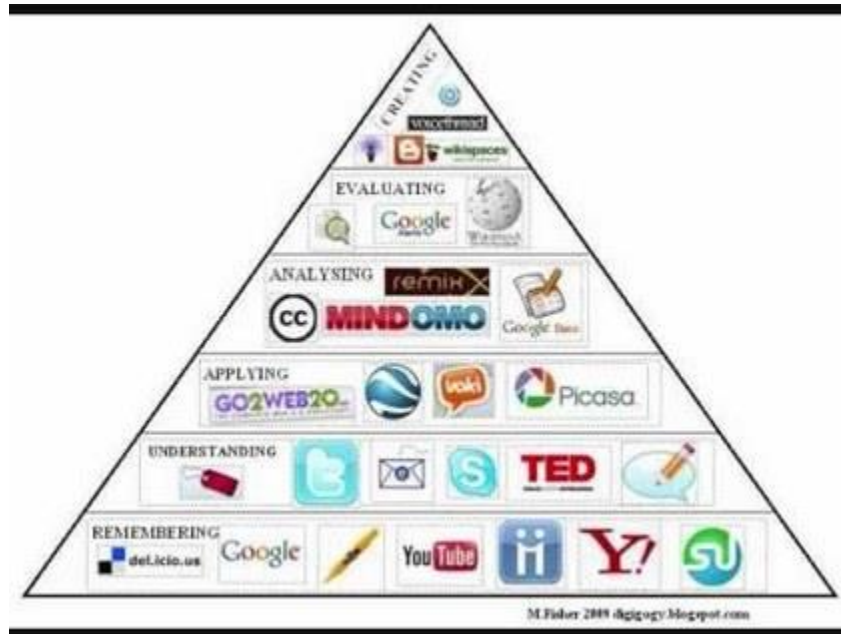
There are many, many strategies for differentiating instruction. Click [here](#) to explore Carol Ann Tomlinson's ideas on how to differentiate instruction, as well as, examples for how to differentiate.



Click [here](#) to watch a video about using workstations to differentiate instruction.



The image below shows tech tools for each level of Blooms Taxonomy. This can help educators utilize technology when differentiating for their students.



In the next section, Perspective and Resources, you will learn more about differentiated instruction. You will have access to more information about content, process, and product, as well as, another piece of Differentiated Instruction has been more recently added to Differentiated Instruction. This new element is learning environment. You may choose to explore resources and perspectives that are most relevant to you and your practice/situation.