Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

WebQuest Description: This WebQuest will increase your knowledge and application of universal design for learning. You will understand the principles of UDL and how to design lessons and curriculum free of barriers for all learners.

Grade Level: College / Adult

Curriculum: Professional Skills

Keywords: universal, design, learning, differentiation

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Introduction

We all know that in today's classrooms no two students learn at the same pace or in the same way. As well, students have many different interests. Teachers must consider this when designing lessons and curriculum. Understanding universal design for learning will teach you how to design lessons that remove barriers and tap into different interests, so that all students can be successful no matter how they learn or what their ability level is.

Tasks

Upon completion of the WebQuest you will, be able to explain UDL to different constituents, be able to evaluate lessons/curriculum for potential barriers, reflect on your findings, and design lessons/curriculum that are potentially barrier free for all students. Your task is to learn about UDL using two exceptional web sites. You will than choose a R.A.F.T. assignment to complete. You will find choices on the Process page. R.A.F.T.s are a great tool to use in a DI classroom. There are two links below for you to learn more about R.A.F.T.s.

Process

You will visit the web sites provided below. Be sure to read and research the entire site and not just the home page. As you research, be sure to gather information on UDL guidelines, UDL and the curriculum, UDL and expert learners, UDL and technology. After reading about UDL, complete one of the following tasks and upload it to the R.A.F.T. assignment on Blackboard. Please refer to the criteria sheet for each of the R.A.F.T. when completing the assignment. The sheet will be used to grade you. R.A.F.T. Role Audience Format Topic Teacher Parent Brochure Help me understand UDL? Administrator Teachers PowerPoint Why and how? Special Educator Classroom Teacher Newspaper Article Let's help all kids succeed. Student with Special Needs Teacher Graphic Novel Please help me succeed. Your last task is to evaluate a lesson that you have taught or seen taught. If you are not teaching or have not seen a lesson being taught, please find a lesson the Internet to evaluate. Using the template provided below, and what you have learned about UDL, please evaluate the lesson for potential barriers. There is a sample evaluation included with the template. After completing the evaluation, reflect on what you learned about the lesson. Then, make suggestions on how you might remove potential barriers to allow all students to succeed. Attach the criteria sheet and submit it through the Assignment tab in Blackboard.

Evaluation

Performance criteria sheet will be used to evaluation your R.A.F.T. Please choose the correct criteria sheet for the R.A.F.T. you choose. Copy it and paste it at the end of your assignment. Please attach the performance criteria sheet for the curriculum evaluation. It should be copied and pasted at the end of your document.

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I hope that you will think about UDL when creating lessons. All children can learn in the right environment, with the right tools, and with the appropriate tasks. Universal design for learning supports differentiated instruction. When designing lessons, consider potential barriers for all learners. Removing potential barriers offers all students the opportunity to learn successfully. I hope that you also see how WebQuests and R.A.F.T.s are strategies to use for differentiating. I encourage you to take a risk and use them. If you want to learn more about UDL, visit the additional web sites.

This WebQuest is designed for an online graduate course on differentiated instruction in the Special education Teacher Preparation program at Fitchburg State University in Fitchburg, MA. It is meant to be a model for teacher candidates, in the hopes that they will recognize the benefits of using WebQuests in a differentiated classroom and incorporate them into their teaching and lessons.

Standards
MADESE Teaching Standards:
I-A-2  
I-A-3  
I-A-4  
II-A-3  
II-B-3

Credits