

Instructional Strategies

Anchor Activities

To maximize instructional time, provide *anchor activities* or projects for students to complete after a lesson. The activities keep the learning process moving forward. The purpose of the activities is meant to deeper understanding of a concept or skill. Students can easily pick up and put down the work during non-instructional time -- perhaps at the beginning of class, after they complete classwork, or when they're waiting for help with a question or problem.

[Chalk.com](https://www.chalk.com) provides suggestions for success with anchor activities.

Learning Contracts

Learning contracts help students who need to be challenged! Provide a specific assignment and list of directives that the students must complete within a specified time. Work with each student to write their individual contract. Provide a blank calendar they can use to plan a timeline including checkpoints along the way.

Learning contracts are an effective instructional strategy to help students set learning goals and practice time management skills. Once the contract and timeline are set, encourage students who are working on the same parts of the assignment to work collaboratively.

Assessment Strategies

Memory Matrix

Memory Matrix is a two-dimensional table divided into rows and columns. The table is used to organize information and identify relationships in the content. You should let cells in the table blank for students to fill in, demonstrating their understanding of the content. This technique provides a structure to organize and synthesize information.

How does it work?

Carefully choose content that can be organized in a table with rows and columns.

Create a simple matrix. Make one completed matrix to use as a key and a blank matrix for students.

Explain the purpose of the exercise.

Set a time limit, explain what form of responses you are looking for (words, bullets, short sentences), and when you will provide feedback.

Handout blank or partially filled matrix.

Have students work individually or in groups, complete the matrix, and hand-in.

Review and analyze results.

Provide feedback and discuss misconceptions.



Classroom / Time Management Strategies

Be Consistent
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The most important part of a successful classroom management plan is to be consistent. That means enforcing rules even when you don't want to, as your students will come to understand that you mean what you say and they will respect you for it. It will also give them a sense of responsibility to follow rules. This helps students feel more secure and it creates order in the classroom. If you are consistent, there will be no surprises. Consistency benefits your classroom in so many ways, for example:

Consistent rules and procedures promote student success and help maintain a safe learning environment.

Consistent expectations promote good habits among students, including the habit of learning itself.

Consistent rules help to avoid misbehavior or confusion about what is and isn't appropriate behavior.

Consistency makes it easier for teachers to find patterns of misbehavior that might not have been evident otherwise.