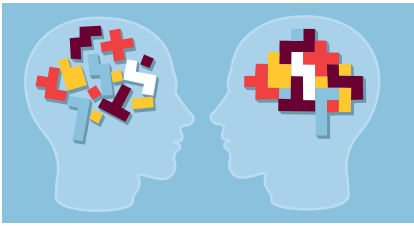




THE GOVERNOR JOHN ENGLER
CENTER FOR
CHARTER
SCHOOLS
CENTRAL MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

RIGOROUS INSTRUCTION STRATEGIES



Definition

“Rigor is creating an environment in which each student is expected to learn at high levels, each student is supported so he/she can learn at high levels, and each student demonstrates learning at high levels.”

- Barbara R. Blackburn

Strategies to Promote Rigor

Setting Goals — Effective teachers set and communicate clear lesson goals to help students understand the success criteria, commit to the learning, and provide the appropriate mix of success and challenge.

Relevance — Be sure to address the question, “Why do we have to learn this?” Develop learning experiences that are either directly applicable to the personal aspirations, interests, or cultural experiences of students (personal relevance) or that are connected in some way to real-world issues, problems, and contexts (life relevance).

Project-Based Learning — Make lessons meaningful by allowing students to actively explore real-world problems and acquire a deeper knowledge of the subject.

Inquiry-Based Learning — Pique student interest and heighten motivation with the core premise being that learning should be based around student questions with the teacher’s job being the facilitator of students discovering knowledge themselves.

Experiential Learning — Ensure hands-on learning by intentionally planning for students to make meaning from direct experiences (i.e., learning by doing).

Bloom’s Taxonomy/DOK — While lesson planning, utilize one of the taxonomies to ensure questions and student activities are intentionally scaffolded and appropriate for each student’s readiness level. Start by asking questions beginning with “Why?” and “How?”

Constructed Response/Writing — Incorporate writing across the curriculum with intentional focus on teaching the writing process. Consider the “RACE” strategy (Restate the question, Answer the question, Cite the source, Explain), CER (Claim, Evidence, Reasoning) and various graphic organizers and sentence stems.

Discussion — Require students to frequently engage in discussion about the content. Provide a prompt, set a timer, and determine partners/groups. Try partnering structures like: Think-Pair-Share, Socratic Seminar, Give One/Get One, Write-Pair-Share, and Notice/Wonder responses.

Resources

» Edutopia.org

» Teachertube.com

» Teachingchannel.com

» ***Rigor is Not a 4-Letter Word*** by Barbara R. Blackburn

» ***Teach Like a Champion*** by Doug Lemov