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EXAMINING

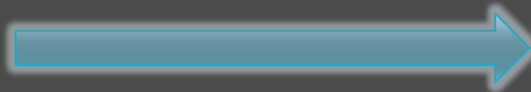
RIGOR

A Journey



A Process

Not a single given experience, program, or policy



What Is Rigor?

Rigor is the confluence of difficulty and complexity.



What Is Rigor?

- Difficulty refers to the amount of effort
- Complexity refers to the type of thinking



Difficulty

“I am learning about the role that characters’ thoughts, words, and actions play in making inferences about the plot in a work of fiction.”

Will align with the type of fictional work (ie short story, chapter book, play; also text level)

Complexity

“I am learning about the role that characters’ thoughts, words, and actions play in making inferences about the plot in a work of fiction.”

Will align with the cognitive demand of the learning (ie describe the role, compare and contrast different works, or create works)

Challenge – “Just Right”

“... challenging tasks have an effect size of 0.57. But when teachers ensure that students have a “Goldilocks” challenge, not too hard and not too boring, the effect size increases to a 0.72.”

Just Right

“Students expect that school will be challenging, but not to the point of frustration and utter defeat...”

“...helping students feel capable in the face of appropriate challenge.”

“Struggling is situational, not identity”



Difficulty

Complexity

So, differentiation really is 1 task with various levels of difficulty.

Difficulty can be adjusted in a research task, for example

- independent research, self-selecting from provided research articles, or a single leveled text provided by teacher
- Cloze statements, graphic organizers, guiding research questions, student-generated questions

JAMES NOTTINGHAM'S THE LEARNING CHALLENGE



Concept

Find a concept worth exploring that you know a little bit about.



Question

Find the problems, the nuances and the exceptions to your concept. You can do this by comparing your concept with another, considering if it always applies, or trying to find a definition that works in all cases.



Cognitive Conflict

If you've uncovered lots of examples and exceptions to your concept, and realised how complex your chosen concept is, then you are in The Pit! This is where deep learning really gets going.



Construct

Identify patterns, relationships and meanings between all the ideas you've uncovered. Distinguish between them by sorting, classifying, grouping or ranking. Use your findings to create a more precise understanding of your concept.

Eureka!
Eureka: you found it! The feeling of enlightenment and discovery you feel at this stage is the ecstasy of learning. This is what makes the learning journey so worthwhile. Congratulations for persevering!



Consider

Look back at your learning journey. Which strategies worked best? What would you change next time? How can you apply your new understanding to different contexts?