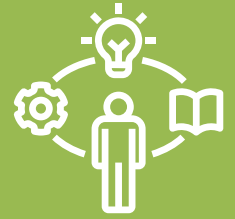




MAKE LEARNING RELEVANT



Definition

Ensuring the content taught is directly applicable to students' lives, interests, and real-world situations. Connecting knowledge to the real-world makes learning relevant.

Do

- Have discussions & peer to peer dialogue to make personal connections
- Use vocabulary across disciplines
- Include student voice and agency
- Ensure you contextualize
- Engage in collaborative thinking
- Build content connections

Teacher Tips

- **Get to know your students and their interests**
 - Share personal experiences and connection
- **Connect to culture**
 - Celebrate cultural heritage months
 - Celebrate religious holidays and celebrations
 - Highlight posters, slides, bulletin boards, videos
- **Allow student choice of project/ learning/ activity**
 - Ask students to explain their choice
 - Allow students to create guidelines/ expectations around their outcomes
 - Have students define terms in their own words
- **Incorporate real-world situations and connect to other disciplines**
- **Consider short- and long-term relevance**
- **Create curiosity in your learners – use inquiry**
- **Promote critical thinking**
- **Include community service & engagement opportunities**
- **Create discussion around the relevancy with students**

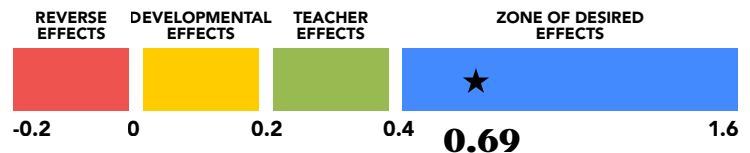
Why It's Important

- Answers the "Why"
- Connects learning to the real world
- Gives students a stake in their learning and provides motivation to learn and grow
- Builds accountability
- Creates cross-curricular connections

Don't

- Assume all students will have the same background knowledge and experiences
- Isolate learning from the real world
- Ignore student input
- Assume students do not have any background knowledge

Hattie Check



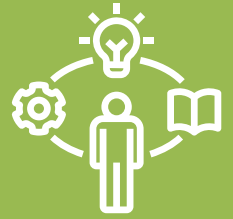
Activities

- Scenario-based bellwork/Do Now
- Mind maps/Thinking maps
- KWL charts
- Role play, debates, discussion, Socratic seminar
- Real-world connections
- Create small groups based on student interests
- Connect to student's prior knowledge
- Guided questioning
- Peer to peer teaching
- Critical stance
- Provide choice and authentic projects
- Engage in interviews, discussions, panels, "spotlights"
- Interest surveys





MAKE LEARNING RELEVANT



Teacher Rubric Connection

Domain 1- Planning and Preparation for Learning

- G - Engagement
- H - Materials
- I - Differentiation
- J - Environment
- K - Involvement

Domain 2 – Classroom Management

- B - Relationships
- C - Classroom Environment
- D - Social Emotional
- H - Responsiveness

Domain 3- Instructional Delivery

- D - Connections/Relevance
- F - Repertoire
- G - Engagement

Implementation Steps

- Intentional discussion at the start of a unit or lesson
- Engage students in discussion: How does this (or could this?) lesson apply to you and/or your life?



Educational Technology and Mobile Learning. (n.d.). 10 effective ways teachers can make learning relevant and meaningful [Infographic]. Educators Technology. <https://www.educatorstechnology.com/2023/08/10-effective-ways-teachers-can-make-learning-relevant-and-meaningful.html>

Exemplar Strategy

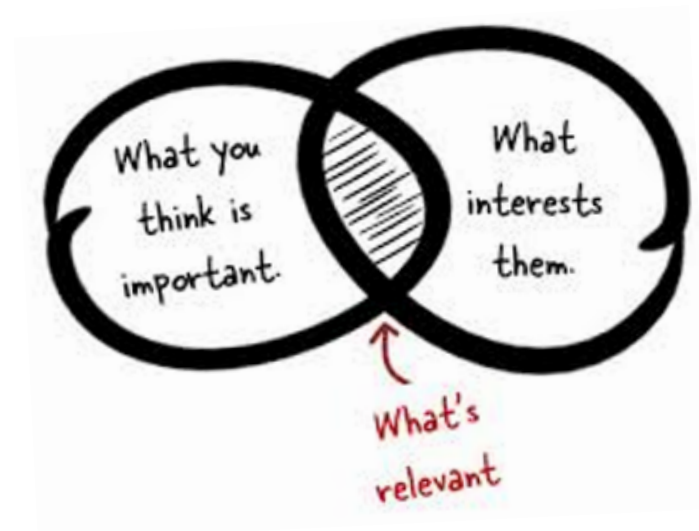
A Joint Productive Activity (JPA) Task Card is a structured instructional tool used to guide collaborative learning tasks where students work together to complete a meaningful academic activity. These task cards are designed to:

- Promote student collaboration and shared responsibility
- Support academic language development
- Connect learning to real-world contexts
- Encourage critical thinking and problem-solving

Each task card typically includes:

- A clear objective
- Step-by-step instructions
- Defined group roles
- Scaffolds for diverse learners
- A focus on relevant, standards-aligned content

JPAs are one of the Five Standards for Effective Pedagogy developed by CREDE (Center for Research on Education, Diversity & Excellence), and are especially effective in culturally and linguistically diverse classrooms.



Anonymous. "What's Relevant" Venn Diagram. Image, n.d. Shared on Twitter. Accessed April 2025.

