



Differentiation Strategies for High-End Learners:
A Response to Instruction

STUDENT CONTRACTS

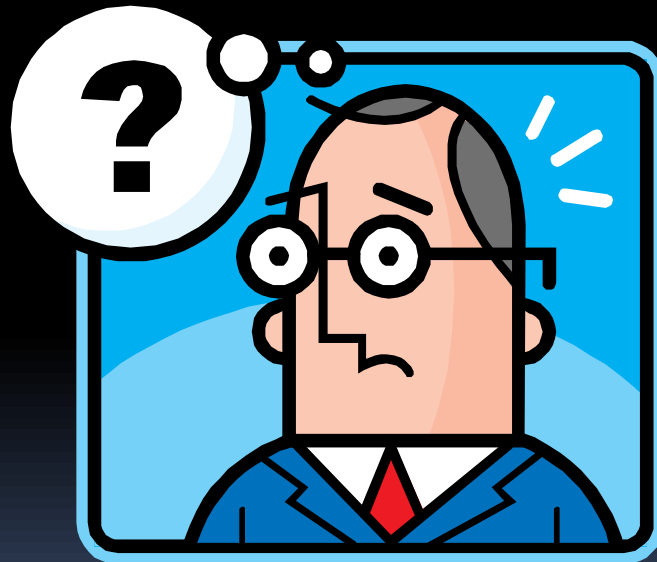
Contracts

- Have you ever used contracts to design your instruction?



Contracts

- What are the elements of adult contracts and why do we use them?



Contracts

- Which of the following are examples of formal contracts?
 - A. Mortgage
 - B. Bank Loan
 - C. Hand shake
 - D. Automobile Lease
 - E. None of the Above
 - F. All of the Above



Contracts

- What are student contracts and why do we use them?



- Have you ever used a student contract as part of your instruction? If so, how?

Contracts- Advantages

- Allow students an element of choice in assignment or unit grade.
- Challenge and engage mastery students while teachers work with struggling learners.
- Make students responsible for their learning.




Contracts: Disadvantages

- Require a level of maturity and self discipline for students.
- Time management can be challenging.
- Take time to plan.





Non-Negotiables of Contracts

- Meet with student at regular intervals to monitor progress.
 - Set deadlines (can be flexible).
 - Allow flexibility of student movement to accomplish varied tasks.
 - Accompany contract with student rubric for self-evaluation and self-reflection.
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Contracts

- Two options for using contracts
 - As alternate activity (Pre-assess students first)
 - Use for core instruction to give student choice of process, product





Contracts as Alternative Activities:

- Pre-assess First
 - Offer the opportunity to pre-test to any student who indicates an interest.
 - Students participate in direct instruction on days when non-mastered concepts or skills are taught.
 - Teacher may require students to make a minimum mastery score on pretest in order to engage in the alternate activity (contract).
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Contracts as Required Assignments

- Offer student choices in how they will learn
- Offer students choice in how they will share what they have learned
 - Students can contract for a grade
 - Students can contract for points based on complexity of the chosen activities




Different Types of Contracts

- Open-ended, Interest driven
- Short or long-term
- Skills or Content
- Student choice of activities within a discipline with varied possible points depending on complexity of task (Core content only)
- Contracts for grades in exchange for completing specific activities (Core content only).




Contracts: Suggestions for Behavior Management

- Expected behaviors embedded in contract with specific consequences
 - Establish rules for checking in and out of classroom if resources are at another location
 - Students set clear goal/s before leaving classroom
 - Progress journals to report on progress upon return.
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How Can Contracts Be Used?

- To streamline instruction (Skills)
 - For orbital studies (Content areas)
 - To broaden instruction (Content or skills)
 - As independent studies (Interest based)
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Contracts

- Let's look at some examples of student contracts.



Contracts

- What common features did you notice on each of the examples?



Contracts Review

- Why do we use them?




Contracts

- Upload your lesson plan to the Moodle Class website.
- Elementary Contracts:
<http://atim.cc/course/view.php?id=377>
- Secondary Contracts:
<http://atim.cc/course/view.php?id=378>
- Teach the lesson
- Follow-Up:
 - Webinar to discuss the effectiveness of the lesson and how to continue improvement **Date:**
 - WIKI to write a minimum of four paragraphs reflecting on the effectiveness of the lesson and how to continue improvement. In addition, post feedback to two other teacher postings.



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