

# OPTIMIZING *your* INSTRUCTION:




a teacher's *checklist*  
for planning in  
unprecedented times.



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As you begin to plan for this unprecedented upcoming school year, make sure your instruction and projects will intrinsically motivate your students to learn even when the learning environment is disrupted.

Put this optimization checklist up against each project or plan to make sure you are creating the best learning environment for all students.

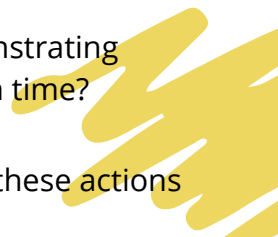




# TEACHER

# Checklist



- #1: Am I okay with not knowing the answer? Am I ready to model resourcefulness with my students and flip the script from being the 'all-knowing' teacher to the resourceful guide who knows how to look for answers?
  - #2: Am I okay with not being able to anticipate the outcomes of a unit, project, learning? Can I let students dive into a project without need to control the end-result?
  - #3: Is my instruction placing greater emphasis on finding the right questions as opposed to praising the 'right' answers? If the questions we are creating are authentic, there may not be a right answer.
  - #4: Can I be okay with a little controlled chaos? When I find a new strategy that scares me, can I try it and be okay with possible mess or madness as we figure it out?
  - #5: Is my instruction letting students pursue their own interests as opposed to following a content path I carved out?
  - #6: Have I begun to open up the four walls of my classroom to allow students to seek out authentic audiences?
  - #7: Am I willing to play the long-game by chasin' big dreams through small steps? Can I be resilient when my new ideas or projects bomb the first time around knowing they probably will?
  - #8: Can all of my students see their reflection somehow when they peer into this unit/aspect of the curriculum? Are all identities represented equally and consistently throughout?
  - #9: For this activity/lesson/unit/experience, what voices/perspectives are centered, missing, marginalized? how can I fill the gaps or balance the scales?
  - #10: Can students feel a sense of genuine ownership in what they're learning or creating? To what extent does it feel like they're directing their own experiences (rather than it being dictated to them)?
  - #11: Am I being flexible? Do my deadlines, thinking/perspective, options for demonstrating skill/showcasing work all align to allow students to explore and structure their own time?
  - #12: Does this learning experience invite them to create, test, and iterate--and are these actions naturally spurred by feedback offered by someone other than myself?
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# Useful Resources



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