



The 5 Families of Teaching Strategies

Teaching strategies are used to create learning environments and to assist students in reaching predetermined learning outcomes. Teaching strategies should be selected based on their alignment with student learning outcomes for a class session.



Experiential Learning

A learner-centered set of strategies which uses real-world and/or hands on experiences as the primary source of instruction for students. Students are encouraged to personally reflect on the experience, analyze the most important aspects of the experience and generalize key principles of the experience to new contexts.

- Simulations
- Games
- Field Observations/ Field Trips
- Model Building
- Survey Experiments
- Narratives



Direct Instruction

A teacher-centered set of strategies used to explicitly convey information and develop skills in students involving sequential steps. Direct teaching strategies can be readily combined with other teaching strategies.

- Lecture
- Drill & Practice
- Didactic Questions
- Demonstrations
- Structured Overview
- Advanced Organizers
- Compare and Contrast



Indirect Instruction

A learner-centered set of strategies which considers learners' interests and curiosity about a topic. Students are highly involved in observation, investigation, inference, and hypothesis formation. As such, the role of the instructor in this set of strategies shifts from lecturer to facilitator and/or resource person.

- Problem Solving
- Case Studies
- Inquiry
- Concept Mapping
- Reflective Discussion



Interactive Instruction

A set of strategies using discussion to facilitate learning. Students are encouraged not only to learn from their teacher but from their peers, as well. These interactive methods require students to use observation, listening, interpersonal, and intervention skills and abilities, as they engage with content topics.

- Debates
- Brainstorming
- Discussion
- Think-Pair-Share
- Cooperative Learning
- Jigsaw
- Problem Solving
- Role-playing



Independent Study

A variety of teaching strategies which place emphasis on the development of personal attitudes and values needed for learning, such as initiative, self-reliance, and a desire for self-improvement. The Independent Study set of strategies can include group-based activities and be initiated by the student or the teacher.

- Computer Assisted Instruction
- Journals
- Reports
- Research Projects