

Tiered Lessons Guide

In a tiered lesson, a teacher uses varied levels of activities to ensure that students explore ideas at a level that builds on their prior knowledge and prompts continued growth. It blends assessment and instruction, allows student to begin learning from where they are, allows students to work with appropriately challenging tasks, allows for reinforcement or extension of concepts and principles based on student readiness, allows modification of working conditions based on learning style, avoids work that is anxiety producing or boredom producing, promotes success and is therefore motivating (Tomlinson, 2001).

When planning a Tiered Lesson:

1. Be sure the task is focused on a key concept or generalization essential to the study.

The first step in developing a tiered lesson is the KUDs. A teacher must have a specific end in mind before tiering begins.

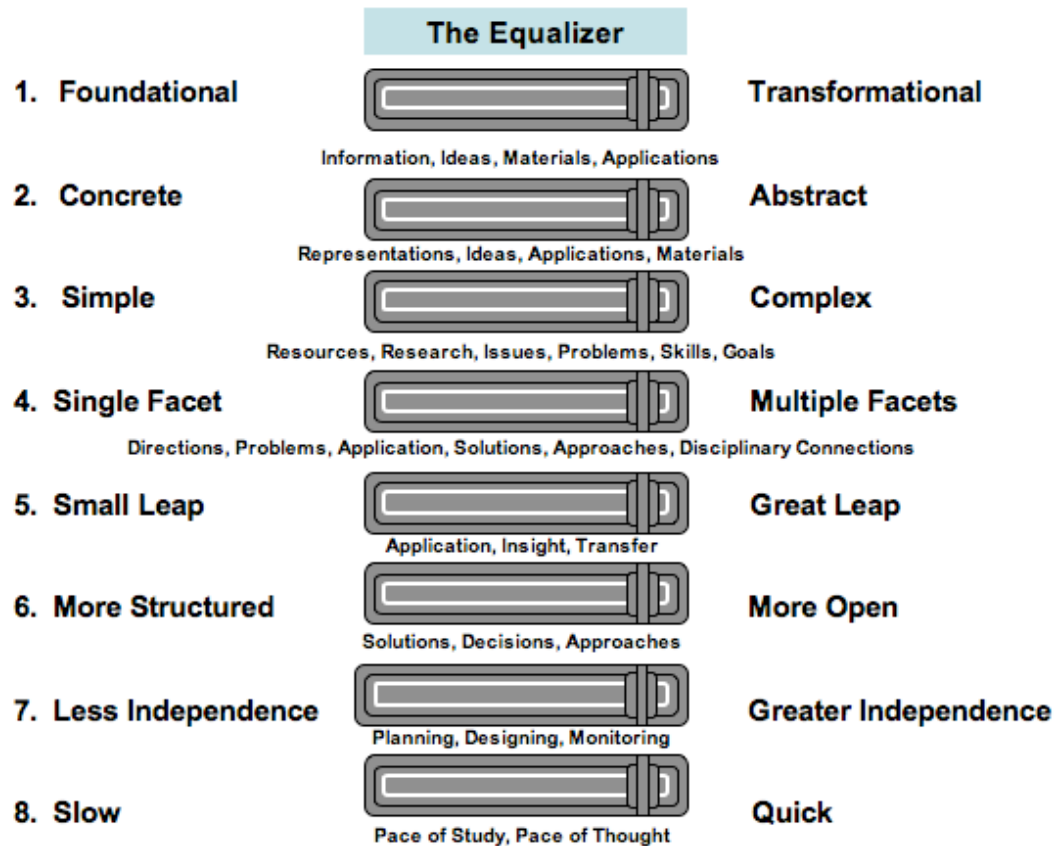
- *Are the objectives written as KUDs – what you want the students to know, understand, and be able to do?*
- *Are the KUDs based on standards (either National or Local)?*

2. Use a variety of resource materials at differing levels of complexity and associated with different learning modes.

- *Have you kept a list of materials & resources the teacher and students need before, during, or after the lesson?*
- *Is there a detailed lesson sequence or procedure, including an introduction and closure?*
- *Is it clear why you chose the particular tasks in this lesson?*
- *Have you taken learning profile and interest into account?*

3. Adjust the task to ensure appropriate challenge.

- Which element(s) of the equalizer do you want to adjust, and why?
- What would that/those look like for the advanced tier? What would it/they look like for the foundational tier?



4. Be certain there are clear criteria for quality and success.

- Is there a description of the pre-assessment, including how the pre-assessment data will be used?
- How will you know if the lesson “worked?”
- What will you watch for?
- How will you use what happens in this lesson to improve the next day’s instruction?
- Is your criteria explicitly stated?