

# Differentiation Strategies

## Begin Slowly-Just Begin!

### Low-Prep Differentiation

- Choices of books
- Homework options
- Use of reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Orbitals
- Varied pacing with anchor options
- Student-teacher goal setting
- Work alone/together
- Whole-to-part and part-to-whole explanations
- Flexible seating
- Varied computer programs
- Design-A-Day
- Varied supplementary materials
- Options for varied modes of expression
- Varying scaffolding on same organizer
- Let's Make A Deal projects
- Computer mentors
- Think-Pair-Share by readiness, interest, learning profiles
- Use of collaboration, interdependence, and open-ended activities
- Mini-workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Jigsaw
- Negotiated Criteria
- Explorations by interest
- Games to practice mastery of information and skill
- Multiple levels of questions

### High-Prep Differentiation

- Tiered activities and labs
- Tiered products
- Independent studies
- Multiple texts
- Alternative assessments
- Learning contracts
- 4-MAT
- Multiple-Intelligence options
- Compacting
- Spelling by readiness
- Entry Points
- Varying organizers
- Lectures coupled with graphic organizers
- Community mentorships
- Interest groups
- Tiered centers
- Personal agendas
- Literature Circles Stations
- Complex Instruction Group Investigation
- Tape-recorded materials
- Teams, Games, and Tournaments
- Choice Boards
- Think-Tac-Toe
- Simulations
- Problem-Based Learning
- Graduated rubrics
- Flexible reading formats Student-centered writing formats

Adapted from:

Tomlinson, C. A. (1999). *The differentiated classroom: Responding to the needs of all learners* (p.15). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Tomlinson, C. A. (2001). *How to differentiate instruction in mixed-ability classrooms* (p.15). Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.