

Universal Design – Best Teaching Practices

March 10, 2005

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Student Characteristics

Population

Population

Population

Where do we expect them to sit?

Traditional Desk

Best Fit

Where did Universal Design Originate?

- Originated in the field of architecture
 - Curb cuts; closed caption text; electronic doors

Where did Universal Design Originate?

- UD can be applied to the creation of products and environments, therefore consumers are incorporated from the onset

Benefits of Universal Design

- Benefits ALL USERS – not just those with disabilities

Can we Apply UD to Education?

- YES
 - Universal Design for Instruction (UConn)
Uses a proactive design and use of inclusive instruction strategies that benefit a broad range of learners including students with disabilities

UDI Principles

Principle 3 – Simple and Intuitive

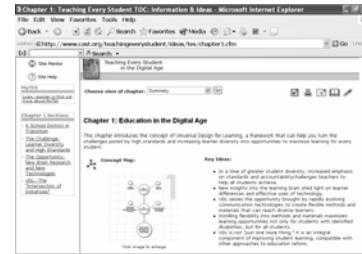
- Provisional grading rubric

Score	Meaning
5	Report is free from spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors AND Report follows format presented in class / APA style
4	Report contains a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors BUT Report follows format presented in class / APA style OR Report is free from spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors BUT Report deviates slightly from format presented in class / APA style
3	Report contains a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors AND Report deviates slightly from format presented in class / APA style
2	Report contains a numerous spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors AND Report deviates slightly from the format presented in class / APA style OR Report contains a few spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors BUT Report deviates considerably from format presented in class / APA style

UDI Principles

■ Principle 4 – Perceptible information

- Selection of textbooks, or material that is available in digital format



UDI Principles

■ Principle 5 – Tolerance for Error

- Structuring a long term course project so that feedback is provided

January 25th	Teaching strategies, Individualized programs Topic for Research Paper Due
February 4th	Collaboratively developing a multicultural curriculum Assignment: Read Chapters 4 - 6
February 11th	Classroom management, behavior management References for Research Paper Due
April 7th	Spoken Language, Reading Multicultural unit presentations Paper Due to Peer Editor
April 14th	Reading, written expression Assignment: Read chapters 11 and 12 Multicultural unit presentations Research Paper Due Peer Evaluation Due
April 21st	Mathematics Multicultural unit presentations

UDI Principles

■ Principle 6 – Low Physical Effort

- Allow students use of a word processor for writing / editing papers or exam essays

UDI Principles

■ Principle 7 – Size and Space for approach and use

- In small class setting – circular seating to allow students to see

UDI Principles

■ Principle 8 - A Community of Learners

- Fostering community by structuring study groups, discussion groups, e-mail lists, or chat rooms

UDI Principles

- Principle 9 - Instructional Climate
 - Syllabus statement affirming the need for class members to respect diversity

Applications of UD in Post-Secondary Settings

- Goal Setting
- Instructional Practice
- Instructional Materials
- Assessment

Importance of Digital Media

- Flexibility
- Ability to mark or TAG material
 - Structure - body, sidebar, headings
 - Semantic - introduction, key questions, summary
 - Embedded Supports - prompts, models, additional background knowledge

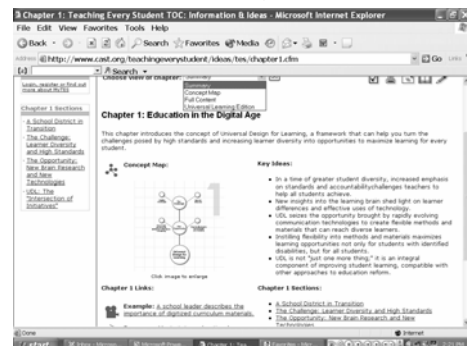
Example of Digital Media

- Rose, D.H. & Meyer, A. (2002). *Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age*. ASCD: Alexandria, VA.
 - [Http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/presentation/digitaltext.cfm](http://www.cast.org/teachingeverystudent/ideas/presentation/digitaltext.cfm)

Example of Digital Media



Example of Digital Media



Example of Digital Media

Eliminate the Barriers

But **NOT** the
Challenges

Elements of College Course

- Goals
- Syllabus
- Instruction
- Assessment

Principles to Consider

- Multiple means of presenting information and content
- Multiple means of options for expression and action
- Multiple means for engagement and motivation

Recognition of Network Possibilities

- Provide multiple examples
- Highlight critical feature
- Provide multiple media - formats
- Consider context and background knowledge

Course of Action

- Identify Course Barriers
 - Student Qualities
 - Instruction
 - Assessment
- Deriving Solutions
 - Instruction
 - Assessment

Barrier Identification

www.cast.org

Barrier Identification

www.cast.org

Examples of Methods and Material

- Printed Materials - textbook, workbook, trade book, posters, worksheet
- Computer based materials - CD-ROM, internet, interactive software, applications, graphics
- Images - photographs, drawings, timelines, graphs, charts, tables, maps
- Objects - manipulatives

Examples of Material and Media

- Presentation / student response media - video, audio (tape/CD), slides / overheads, pen / pencil, highlighters, art supplies, computer tools, music

Examples of Methods / Student Activities

- Information Presentation Method - chalk, white board, overheads, lecture, printed notes, handouts
- Learning Content - small-group discussion, large-group discussion, independent reading, in-class assignment, homework
- Instructional formats - small-group instruction, individual work, lecture, collaborative learning, hands-on activities

Examples of Methods / Student Activities

- Project / Presentation Formats - term paper, research paper, oral presentation, handwritten paper, drawing / diagram, three dimensional project, graphic presentation
- Student research - Library research, online research, data collection, interviews

Goals

- Apply the concept of Universal Design to instructional environments to ensure all students receive a quality education, including students with disabilities
- Establish Instructional Excellence Teams (IET) for the purpose of implementing Universal Design

Remember

- Universal Design can be implemented using high tech and low tech solutions
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