

**ENGAGE**

Designed to help students understand the learning task and make connections to past and present learning experiences. It should stimulate interest and prompt students to identify their own questions about the topic. Typical activities in this stage include posing a question, defining a problem, or demonstrating a discrepant event, then using small group discussions to stimulate and share ideas. Instructors help students connect previous knowledge to the new concepts introduced in the unit.

**EXPLORE**

Students have the opportunity to get directly involved with key concepts through guided exploration of information. They begin identifying patterns and make connections to other disciplines. Frequently, students will diverge from the slated activity to explore their own questions, continually building on their knowledge base. In this stage, instructors observe and listen to students as they interact with each other and the information provided. Probing questions help students clarify their understanding and redirect their investigations when necessary.

**EXPLAIN**

Students are introduced more formally to the lesson's concepts. Through readings and discussions, students gain understanding of the major concepts and can verify answers to questions or problems posed earlier. In addition, more abstract concepts not easily explored in earlier activities are introduced and explained. As students formulate new ideas, appropriate vocabulary can be introduced.

**ELABORATE**

Students expand on what they have learned and apply their newfound knowledge to a different situation. They test ideas more thoroughly and explore additional relationships. Providing closure to the lesson and verifying student understanding is critical at this point.

**EVALUATE**

The instructor continually observes students' learning to monitor their progress using questioning techniques and discussions. More formal evaluation - traditional assessments in the form of quizzes and alternative assessments such as concept maps, summary projects or reports - can be conducted at this stage. The assessment should be aligned with the content of the learning experience.