

Arizona Virtual Teacher Institute

Back to Basics: Creating Equitable Learning Environments



Meet Your Host!



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Session Goals

- Learn about equity and consider equitable learning environments.
- Discover strategies for implementing equitable learning in a school environment.





Agenda

01

Equity vs.
equality

02

Culturally
responsive
teaching

03

Strategies and
approaches

04

Implementation
in the classroom

05

Final
considerations

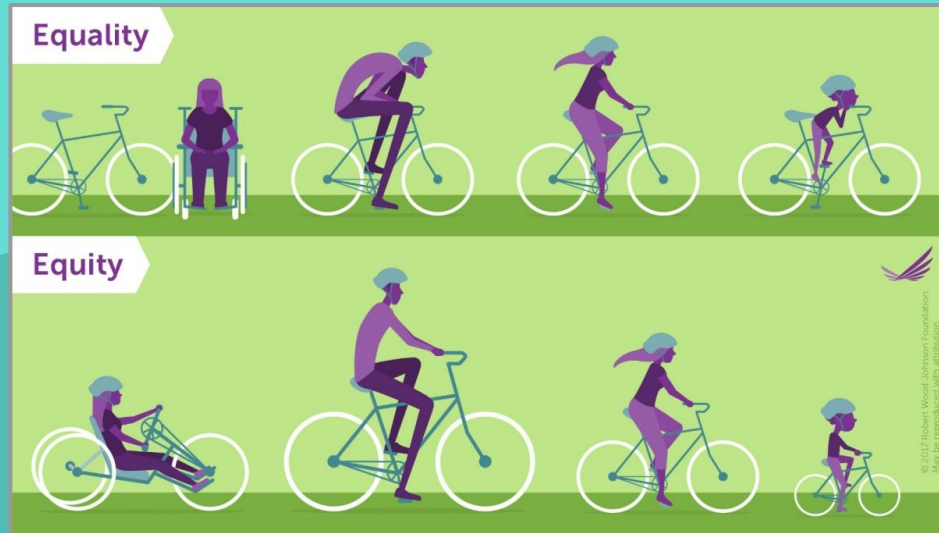


Kick Off Considerations

- What do you know about equity?
- What would you like to know that might improve your teaching of students in the classroom?



Equality Versus Equity



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Barriers to Equity

According to the Scholastic Teachers and Principals Report, these are a few additional barriers to equity in American schools:[11]

- Family crises
- Mental health issues
- Lack of healthcare
- Coming to school hungry
- Homelessness or living in a temporary shelter
- Still learning the English language

Benefits of Focusing on Equity

- Improved test scores
- Strengthening of a student's health and social emotional development
- Longer life
- Economic growth

Levels of Equity

The Every Student Succeeds Act from 2015 suggests three levels of equity exist in every school:

1. **Institutional** — What the district and school administration value, and the policies they put in place.
2. **Personal** — How teachers engage with the complicated emotional and cognitive processes needed to work towards equity.
3. **Instructional** — Any books, lesson plans, assignments or teaching strategies you use in the classroom.

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Creating Equitable Environments

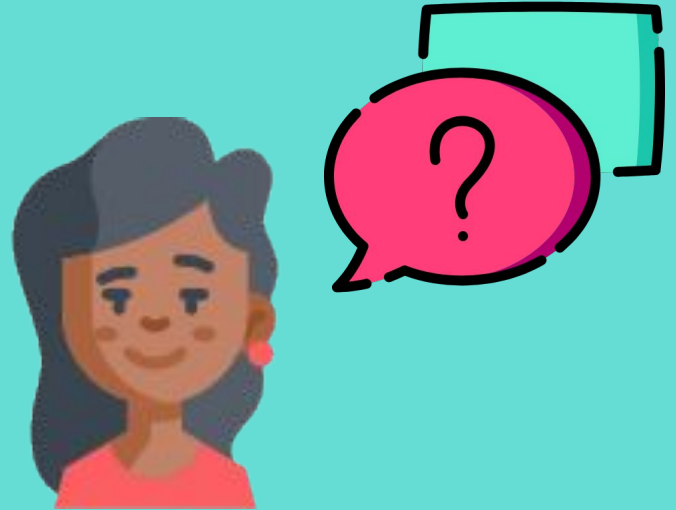
Meaningful Equity in the Classroom

- Start with yourself
- Model equity for your students
- Be flexible with online learning
- Address inappropriate remarks
- Accommodate different learning styles
- Examine your teaching materials
- Give students a voice



Creating an Equitable Environment

- Know every child
- Become a warm demander
- Practice lean-in assessment
- Flex your routine
- Make it safe to fail
- View culture as a resource



Pursuing Equity Through Excellence

10 Ways to Pursue Excellence through Equity



Challenge the normalization of failure



Speak up for equity



Embrace immigrant students and their culture



Provide students clear guidance on what it takes to succeed



Build partnerships with parents based on shared interests



Align discipline practices to educational goals



Rethink remediation, focus on acceleration



Implement evidence-based practices and evaluate for effectiveness



Build partnerships with community to address student needs



Teach the way students learn rather than expecting them to learn the way we teach

Source: Dr. Pedro Noguera, professor of education at UCLA

Explore Independently

- Independently, if you are interested and have time, read [THIS white paper](#) by the Achievement Network on expanding equity to all students as we work to re-open our schools after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This article addresses creating schools where every student can thrive through equity, academics and social emotional learning.



Everyone as Partners

- Students, parents, family members, and even other teachers are partners in ensuring any student's success.
- Learning happens most effectively when everyone works together as partners
- In conversations, listen often; learn from others' points of view
- Develop plans for improvement together
- Follow up regularly



Building Community

- Infuse exercises that involve connectedness
 - Stretch together, play music, take collective breaths, play an icebreaker game to encourage sharing
- Let everyone play a role
- Embrace questions
- Practice the art of listening



Building Community Strategies

- Set challenges
- Ask your students for feedback
- Bring in guest speakers
- Create a safe space for sharing
- Hold live events
- Set expectations early on

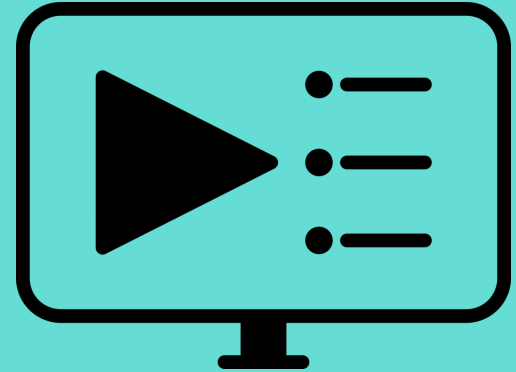


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Strategies to Implement Immediately

What is a Playlist?

- A playlist is a teaching strategy that allows student choice over the order and content of learning.
- It is an excellent example of student centered learning and differentiating instruction.
- It is a common practice in blended learning settings (Individual Rotation) but also works well fully online.



Explore Examples

PE Choice Board

Do some form of weights. If you don't have weights try this canned food workout	Take a 24 hour break from Social Media The Health Benefits	Try this easy and quick 7 minute workout	Make a healthy recipe for your family. Try one of these!
Install a 5 minute workout app on your phone and do one of the exercises. Android - iPhone	Eliminate an unhealthy food or drink choice for the day	Walk 10000 steps in one day. Track your steps with one of these phone apps. Android - iPhone	Meditate for 10 minutes Listen to these sounds!
Repeat an activity from ANY other square	Try 3 yoga poses OR this intro to yoga video	Record the food you eat in a journal or food app like Fitness Pal Android - iPhone	Eat 3 servings of vegetables each day we are out of school.
Try these PANTHER YOGA poses with a sibling or parent.	Get 7-9 hours of sleep each day we are out of school. Here is why it is important	Don't be a total COUCH POTATO! Try these chair exercises while you binge on your favorite show	Try one of these Youtube Warmups with your family.

Personal Narrative Writing Choice Board

Pick a prompt. Remember to use the Transition Words *First, Next, Then* and *Last*.

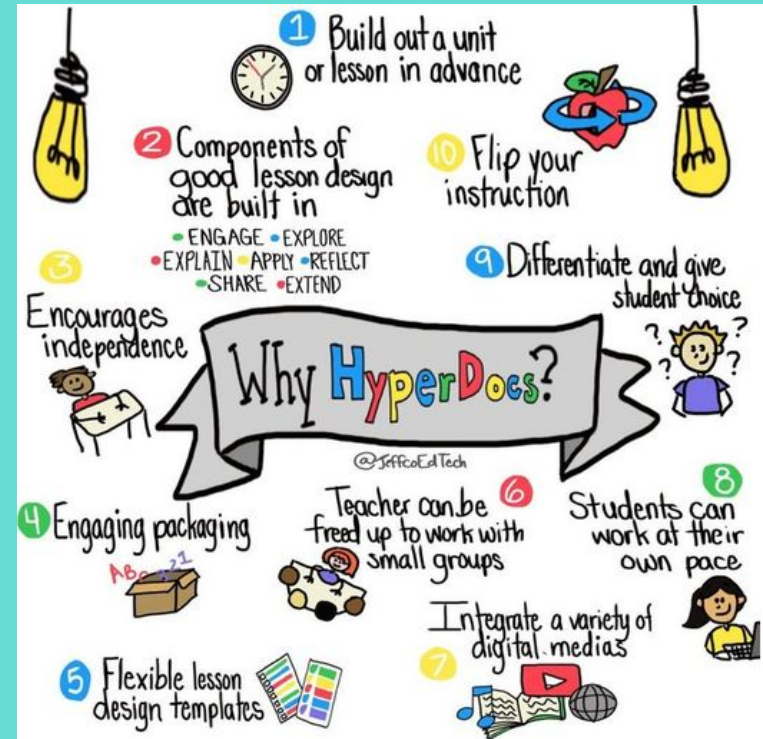
Write about a time when you got hurt. 	Write about a time you were sick. 	Write about a time you helped someone with something. 
Write about a vacation you went on. 	Write about a fun party you went to. 	Write about the best day you had in school. 
Write about the day you got your pet. 	Write about your best birthday. 	Write about a fun day you had with a friend. 

What is a Hyperdoc?

A HyperDoc is a digital document where all components of a unit have been pulled together into one central document.

Benefits:

- Fewer lectures
- More face-to-face-interaction
- Flexibility
- Multimodal

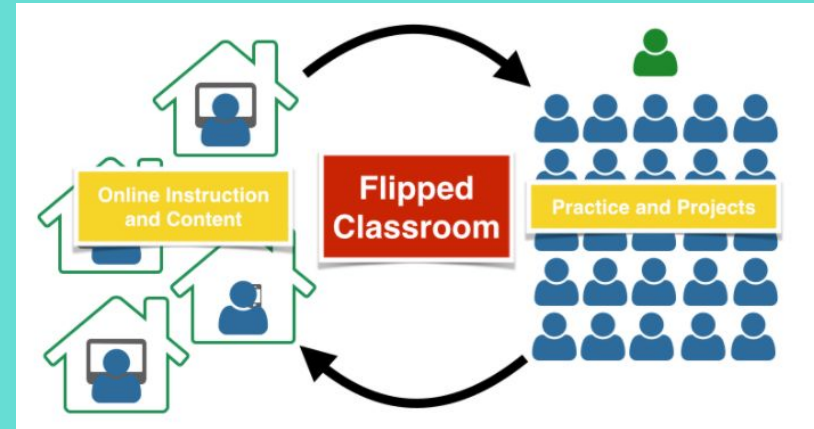


Exploration Challenge

- We will spend the next part in this session having you work through a [playlist/choice board](#) which includes articles, templates, and examples for using Playlists and HyperDocs in the classroom.
- Question to CONSIDER: Which format do you think you might use with students?

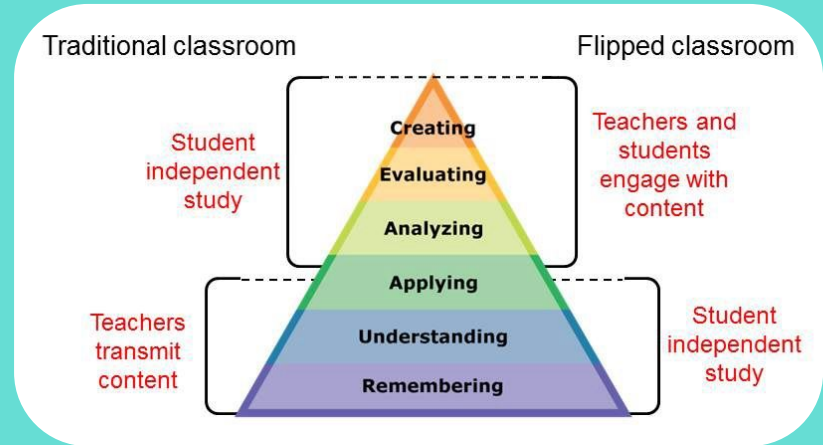
What is the Flipped Classroom?

The **Flipped Classroom** model flips the traditional relationship between class time and homework. Students learn at home via online/asynchronous coursework and teachers use class time for their teacher guided practice.



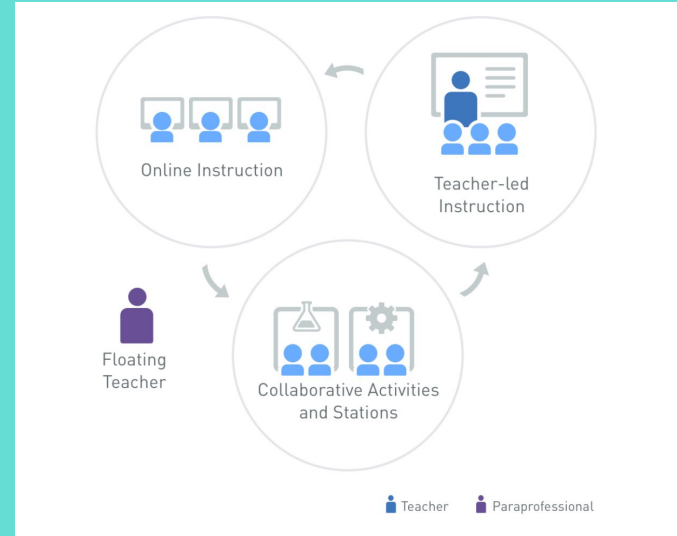
Implementing the Flipped Classroom

- Decide where your videos will come from
- Decide how and when your students will use the videos
- Find other uses for the instructional videos
- Hold your kids accountable
- Complement with guided lessons



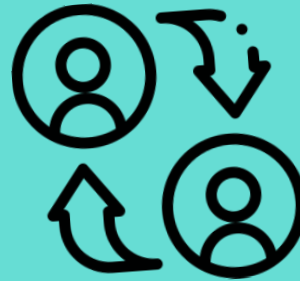
What is Station Rotation?

The **Station Rotation** model allows students to **rotate** through **stations** on a fixed schedule, where at least one of the **stations** is an online learning **station**. This model is most common in elementary schools because teachers are already familiar **rotating** in "centers" or **stations**.



Benefits of Station Rotation

- Small group instruction
- Allows for differentiation
- Tech station can give formative data
- Students working at own pace
- Balance online and offline work
- Considerations:
 - Time Management
 - Staying at your teacher led station
 - Expectations at each station
 - Students being able to problem solve independently



Debrief



- What resonated with you today? Why?
- What was an AHA! moment for you today? Why?
- What was a reaffirming moment for you today? Why?

Independent Workshop!

Take time to explore our topics further. Delve into one of the strategies discussed today, and using a lesson planning template, begin to plan a lesson using a strategy that will support the building of an equitable environment in your classroom.



Please get in touch
to share your
thoughts, plans and
questions!



CHALLENGE

**Implement one or more of the strategies
discussed in our session today.**