Instructor's Guide for Universal Design for Learning

Topic Area: Instruction

Module: Universal Design for Learning

Case Study: G'Day Mate: Enabling Learners to Discover An Aussie Author

Summary: Jackie Jones, a regular education classroom teacher, is extremely excited about the new language arts unit that she is preparing to teach her third grade students. Her class is beginning to study the "land down under," and she is developing an author study of an Australian born author, Mem Fox, to enhance the integrated instruction in her room. Jackie has a student with severe learning disabilities, Steven, and she wants to make sure that she makes Mem Fox and Australia come alive for him. Steven has lots of difficulty with language processing, and motivating him to read and write is her greatest challenge of the year. In an attempt to increase her success, she scheduled a meeting with the school reading specialist to brainstorm ideas for making the most of the unit for all of the kids, but particularly Steven. Upon the completion of their planning session, they intend to incorporate a student created iMovie presentation, WebQuest, audio taped books, and graphic organizers to maximize interest for all of the kids and increase productivity and success for Steven.

Characters and Roles:
- Jackie Jones, third grade teacher
- Steven, third grade student with language processing difficulties
- Marie Banderhoven, reading specialist

Tools:
- WebQuest
- Audio-taped Text
- Graphic Organizer

Artifacts:
- Audio Transcript of Planning Session
- Audio-taped Text of Mem Fox
- Information about Reading Rainbow Videos
- Information about Mem Fox
- Audio-taped Text of Koala Lou by Mem Fox
- Information on iMovie
- Audio-tape of Teachers Making a WebQuest
- Example WebQuest Worksheet
- Sample Video Tribute
- Video Tribute Organizer
- Learner Checklist
- Video Planner Worksheet
Example of Student Reflection
Audio Transcript of Parent Response
iMovie
Information on Australian Words and Definitions from ThinkQuest

Glossary Terms:
- Learning Goals
- Instructional Television
- WebQuest
- Audio-taped Text
- Movie Tributes
- Concrete and Abstract Operations
- Graphic Organizer
- Inspiration
- Video Tribute
- Cooperative Learning Groups
- Essential Components

Web Sites:
- www.inspiration.com
- www.brainchild.com

Discussion Points:
- How can teachers ensure that the internet is used as an effective teaching tool?
- How can teachers structure time and activities when students are in a computer lab to maximize the educational value?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of students having an opportunity to freely explore specific websites?
- What is the value of providing learner checklists or rubrics when making assignments?

Activities:
- Create a WebQuest for something you are teaching or of interest.
- Create an iMovie for something you are teaching or of interest.
- Create a graphic organizer using Inspiration.
- Create a video tribute.
- Create a learner checklist or rubric for an assignment.

Reflective Question: Scene 6, Question 1 - What was the purpose of viewing excerpts from the videos and watching the teachers model an example? How would this teaching approach impact the students' final product? *Students of all ages appreciate seeing examples of assignments. Even when the teacher does a thorough job of explaining the paper, project, or presentation and provides a detailed rubric, viewing an exceptional product provides further clarification for*
students. As a result, students are often motivated to create something that goes beyond the example and exceed the expectations of the instructor. However, one possible danger of showing examples of work by experts or previous students is that students might "copy" the ideas and not be as creative. Teachers should mention this when sharing the examples.

Connections:
- Topic Area: Instruction; Module: Reading Acquisition
- Topic Area: Instruction; Module: Comprehension