

DEVELOPMENTAL TEACHING

In contrast to lecture and other modes of presentation that are focused on the transmission of information, developmental teaching is focused on assisting students in becoming active in their own learning. Some strategies of developmental teaching include:

- Emphasis on student-generated information --- The teacher is not the only source of information;
- Students examine possible multiple solutions to a problem --- Problems of various levels of complexity are used so that students can examine optional solutions;
- Students prioritizing options --- When given multiple options, students, individually or in groups, prioritize them on the basis of specified criteria;
- Preference for student understanding rather than memorization --- Assignments, discussion, and tests require students to demonstrate understanding rather than memorization of facts;
- Application of information to real-life situations --- Theory is continuously related to real-life situations through examples provided by the teacher or generated by the students.
- Examination of information in context --- Material is never introduced as a stand-alone piece but is related to some context such as previous material or other disciplines, either by the teacher or by the students;
- Understanding by students of methodology, especially that which is discipline-specific --- Information and activities are provided, whenever possible, in a manner specific to the discipline such as labs, field work, modes of communication, etc.;
- Students pose questions and answer them as well --- Rather than teacher asking the questions and students responding, students ask probing questions and other students answer them (individually or in groups);
- Brainstorming of information, ideas, opinions --- Students participate actively in the generation of critical material by brainstorming individually, in pairs or in small groups;
- Goal setting and self-direction are encouraged --- Students are expected to take responsibility for the flow, pace and content of learning, with guidance from the teacher;
- Critical thinking skills are developed and utilized --- Learning takes place on gradually more complex levels of thinking;
- Process is stressed over mere facts --- The process of information development as well as of assignments is stressed through explanation, observation, and discovery.