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Seven Reasons to Try Project Based Learning

In *Setting the Standard for Project Based Learning*, John Larmer, John Mergendoller, and Suzie Boss take you through the steps of planning, implementing, and assessing rigorous project based learning (PBL). Here, they share seven reasons why PBL is an essential approach every teacher should master.

- 1 PBL makes school more engaging for students.** Today's students, more than ever, often find school to be boring and meaningless. When involved in PBL, students are active, not passive; a project engages their hearts and minds and provides real-world relevance for learning.
- 2 PBL improves learning.** After completing a project, students remember what they learn and retain it longer than is often the case with traditional instruction. Students learn content at a deeper level and are better able to apply what they know and can do to new situations.
- 3 PBL builds competencies for college and career readiness.** In the 21st century workplace, success requires more than basic knowledge and skills. In PBL, students also learn how to take responsibility, build confidence, solve problems, work collaboratively, communicate ideas, and manage themselves effectively.
- 4 PBL helps address standards.** The Common Core State Standards and other present-day standards emphasize critical thinking and the application of knowledge and skills. PBL is an effective way to meet these goals.
- 5 PBL provides opportunities for students to use technology.** Modern technology—which students use so much in their lives—is a perfect fit with PBL. Teachers and students can connect with experts, partners, and audiences around the world, find resources, create products, and collaborate more successfully.
- 6 PBL connects students and schools with communities and the real world.** Projects provide students with empowering opportunities to make a difference in their communities and the wider world by solving real problems, addressing real issues, and exploring potential career interests.
- 7 PBL makes teaching more enjoyable and rewarding.** PBL allows teachers to work more closely

with active, engaged students doing high-quality, meaningful work and, in many cases, to rediscover the joy of learning alongside their students. ■

Adapted from *Setting the Standard for Project Based Learning: A Proven Approach to Rigorous Classroom Instruction* (pp. 154-155) by John Larmer, John Mergendoller, and Suzie Boss. © 2015 by ASCD.

NEW!

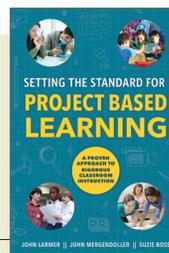
Setting the Standard for Project Based Learning: A Proven Approach to Rigorous Classroom Instruction

John Larmer, John Mergendoller, and Suzie Boss

(ASCD book copublished with Buck Institute for Education, 2015) 6" x 9", 240 pages

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$20.95**
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LOOK INSIDE!

Get a sneak peek and read a sample from this book at www.ascd.org/settingstandardpbl.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE



NEW!

Real-World Projects: How do I design relevant and engaging learning experiences?

Suzie Boss

Discover how to connect academic knowledge to real-world application using practical, field-tested strategies for project based learning. Expert Suzie Boss explains how to create authentic learning environments that engage and motivate students while teaching relevant, rigorous content and skills. Learn how to plan, assess, and use technology to support successful projects; incorporate community-based issues that put students on the path to active citizenship; and connect with real-world experts, allies, and audiences.

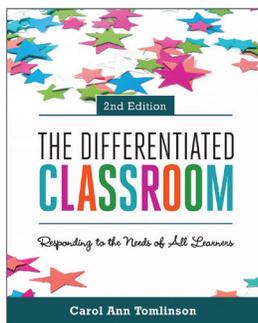
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Differentiated Instruction Two-Book Set

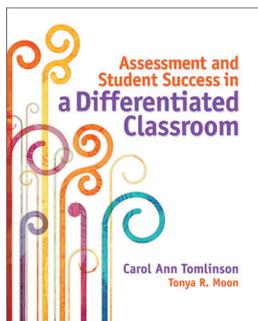
Carol Ann Tomlinson and Tonya R. Moon

This specially priced set contains two must-have books that offer powerful and practical ways for teachers to meet the challenge of how to divide their time, resources, and efforts to effectively instruct students who have varied backgrounds, readiness and skill levels, and interests. Together, these two books provide a solid grounding in differentiation and how it can improve learning and assessment in all grade levels and subject areas.

The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of All Learners, 2nd Edition

Assessment and Student Success in a Differentiated Classroom

(ASCD book bundle, 2015)
7 7/8" x 9 7/8", 157 and 197 pages

**Print:**

ASCD Members: **\$35.95**
Nonmembers: **\$48.95**

Stock #: 114094XB9

Go to www.ascd.org/di to read sample chapters, watch video clips, and access other online resources on differentiated instruction.



NEW!

A Differentiated Approach to the Common Core: How do I help a broad range of learners succeed with challenging curriculum?

Carol Ann Tomlinson and Marcia B. Imbeau

The leading authority on differentiation, Carol Ann Tomlinson, joins education consultant Marcia B. Imbeau to explain how to apply the principles of differentiated instruction to help academically diverse students achieve the goals of the Common Core State Standards.

(ASCD Arias publication, 2014) 5" x 7 3/4",
56 pages

Print:

ASCD Members: **\$9.99**

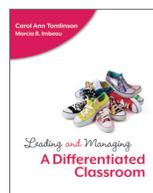
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Stock #: **SF114076XB9**

E-Book:

ASCD Members: **\$5.99**

Nonmembers: **\$6.99**



BEST SELLER!

Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom

Carol Ann Tomlinson and Marcia B. Imbeau

Carol Ann Tomlinson, the top authority on differentiated instruction, teams up with educator and consultant Marcia B. Imbeau to outfit you with everything you need to deal with time, space, materials, groups, and strategies in ways that balance content requirements with multiple pathways for learning.

(ASCD Premium, Select, and Institutional Plus Member book, 2010) 8" x 10", 188 pages

Print:

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Stock #: 108011XB9

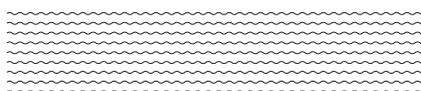
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Solving 25 Problems in Unit Design: How do I refine my units to enhance student learning?

Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins

Curriculum design experts Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins have reviewed thousands of curriculum documents and unit plans across a range of subjects and grades. In this book, they identify and describe the 25 most common problems in unit design and recommend how to fix them—and avoid them—when planning new units.

(ASCD Arias publication, 2015) 5" x 7 3/4",
64 pages

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ASCD Members: **\$9.99**

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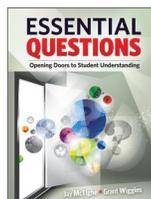
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E-Book:

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BEST SELLER!

Essential Questions: Opening Doors to Student Understanding

Jay McTighe and Grant Wiggins

The authors of the popular *Understanding by Design®* framework explain why and how to use essential questions in all grade levels and subjects to unlock the big ideas in your curriculum and deepen students' understanding. They provide practical and proven guides to help you design effective essential questions and use them in daily instruction to engage more students in thoughtful practices that promote independent learning in all grade levels and subjects.

(ASCD Premium, Select, and Institutional Plus Member book, April 2013) 8 1/2" x 11", 120 pages

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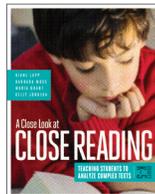
A Close Look at Close Reading: Teaching Students to Analyze Complex Texts, Grades 6-12

Barbara Moss, Diane Lapp, Maria Grant, and Kelly Johnson

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$22.95**
 Nonmembers: **\$30.95**
 Stock #: 115002XB9
E-Book:
 ASCD Members: **\$21.99**
 Nonmembers: **\$29.99**

All middle and high school teachers need this book to meet the demand for teaching students close reading in those grades. The authors introduce close reading as a tool for unlocking meaning and emphasize its role in developing the thinking, speaking, and writing skills necessary for college and career readiness.

(ASCD book, 2015) 7 7/8" x 9 7/8", 240 pages



NEW!

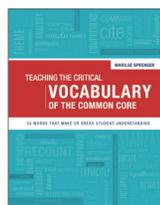
A Close Look at Close Reading: Teaching Students to Analyze Complex Texts, Grades K-5

Diane Lapp, Barbara Moss, Maria Grant, and Kelly Johnson

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$22.95**
 Nonmembers: **\$30.95**
 Stock #: 114008XB9
E-Book:
 ASCD Members: **\$21.99**
 Nonmembers: **\$29.99**

New standards demand an instructional shift to teaching students close reading skills, and teachers need to know what this means: the texts to choose, the process to follow, the kinds of questions to ask, the supports to provide, and the assessment strategies to use. That's where this comprehensive book comes in, with timely advice and clear guidelines and steps targeted especially to elementary school teachers.

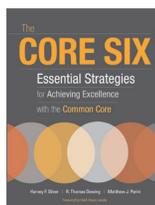
(ASCD book, 2015) 7 7/8" x 9 7/8", 200 pages


Teaching the Critical Vocabulary of the Common Core: 55 Words That Make or Break Student Understanding

Marilee Sprenger

Instead of wading through long vocabulary lists and drill-and-kill exercises, read this book that focuses on the 55 most critical words from the Common Core State Standards that your students need to know and use in their everyday lives.

(ASCD book, 2013) 7" x 9", 220 pages

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$20.95**
 Nonmembers: **\$27.95**
 Stock #: 113040XB9
E-Book:
 ASCD Members: **\$19.99**
 Nonmembers: **\$26.99**


BEST SELLER!

The Core Six: Essential Strategies for Achieving Excellence with the Common Core

Harvey F. Silver, R. Thomas Dewing, and Matthew J. Perini

Discover research-based strategies to help you respond to the demands of the new standards, particularly the English language arts standards that affect every subject area and grade level. Six winning instructional approaches ensure your lessons reinforce college and career readiness.

(ASCD book, 2012) 7" x 9", 89 pages

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$10.95**
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 Stock #: 113007XB9
E-Book:
 ASCD Members: **\$9.99**
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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



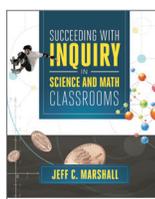
NEW!

Real Engagement: How do I help my students become motivated, confident, and self-directed learners?

Allison Zmuda and Robyn R. Jackson

Allison Zmuda and Robyn R. Jackson explain the four keys to real engagement: clarity, context, challenge, and culture. Their smart, concrete strategies for improving classroom assignments, assessments, and environments will help you create learning experiences that are rigorous, meaningful, and rewarding for your students and yourself.

(ASCD Arias publication, 2015) 5" x 7 3/4", 58 pages

Print:
 ASCD Members: **\$9.99**
 Nonmembers: **\$12.99**
 Stock #: SF115056XB9
E-Book:
 ASCD Members: **\$5.99**
 Nonmembers: **\$6.99**

Succeeding with Inquiry in Science and Math Classrooms

Jeff C. Marshall

Teaching in a math or science classroom can be a great opportunity to shift the focus of instruction away from telling and more toward having students do and experience academic content. Jeff C. Marshall explains how to plan and implement that kind of high-quality instruction by combining three practices that have been shown to increase students' critical thinking skills—*inquiry-based instruction, formative assessment, and teacher reflection.*

(Copublished book from NSTA and ASCD, 2013) 8" x 10", 170 pages

Print:
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SUPPORTING TEACHERS



NEW!

Teacher Teamwork: How do we make it work?

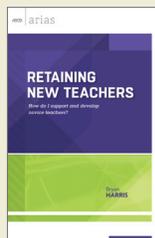
Margaret Searle and Marilyn Swartz

Transform team meetings and collaborative work from unproductive, wasted time into positive teamwork and collective problem solving. This book's easy tips and simple steps ensure you create and manage highly effective teams that make good decisions, focus on student learning, and sustain mutual support.

Print:
ASCD Members: **\$9.99**
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Stock #: SF115045XB9

E-Book:
ASCD Members: **\$5.99**
Nonmembers: **\$6.99**

(ASCD Arias publication, 2015) 5" x 7 3/4", 48 pages



NEW!

Retaining New Teachers: How do I support and develop novice teachers?

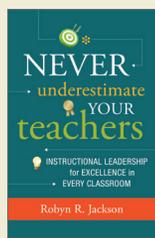
Bryan Harris

If you hire, train, or mentor new teachers, you know there's a good chance they will leave the profession within the first five years. It doesn't have to be that way, and Bryan Harris explains why. Learn how to create a four-part support system that ensures beginning teachers eventually thrive as effective practitioners who stay in your school.

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E-Book:
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(ASCD Arias publication, 2015) 5" x 7 3/4", 47 pages



BEST SELLER!

Never Underestimate Your Teachers: Instructional Leadership for Excellence in Every Classroom

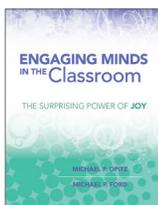
Robyn R. Jackson

This award-winning book is a must-read for school leaders who want to know how to give the right feedback to their teachers. Explore a new model for instructional leadership with eight tools that help you diagnose teacher will and skill, develop improvement plans for teachers, and manage your own schedule.

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E-Book:
ASCD Members: **\$18.99**
Nonmembers: **\$25.99**

(ASCD Premium Member book, May 2013) 6" x 9", 175 pages



NEW!

Engaging Minds in the Classroom: The Surprising Power of Joy

Michael F. Opitz and Michael P. Ford

Explore what Michael F. Opitz and Michael P. Ford have discovered about planning lessons that engage students and enable them to truly enjoy learning. The authors outline key findings from research on motivation and engagement and offer real-life teaching examples from various grades. They show how to systematically propel students to enjoy using their minds every day—and to view themselves as confident learners ready to take on the challenges of the world.

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(ASCD book, 2014) 7" x 9", 76 pages

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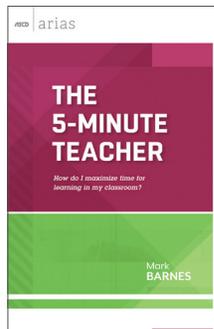
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These quick-read books are jam-packed with ideas and solutions for everyday classroom challenges.

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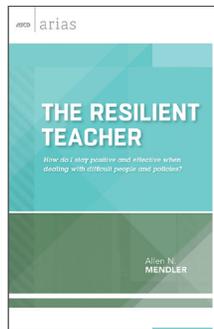
E-BOOK | ASCD Members: \$5.99 | Nonmembers: \$6.99

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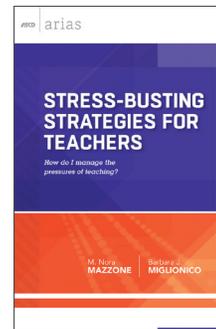
The 5-Minute Teacher: How do I maximize time for learning in my classroom?

Stock #: SF113072XB9



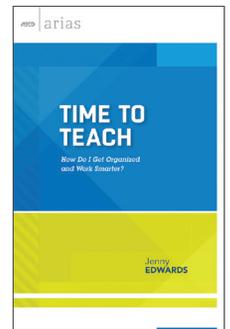
The Resilient Teacher: How do I stay positive and effective when dealing with difficult people and policies?

Stock #: SF114077XB9



Stress-Busting Strategies for Teachers: How do I manage the pressures of teaching?

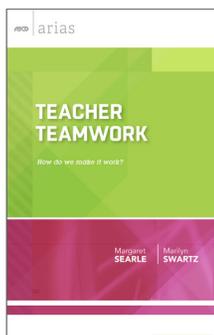
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Time to Teach: How do I get organized and work smarter?

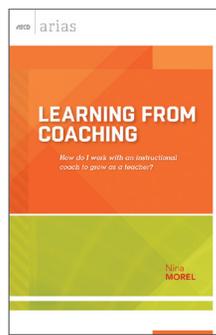
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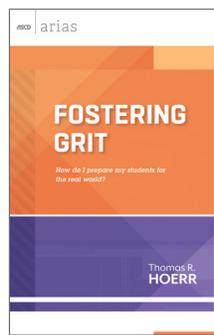
Teacher Teamwork: How do we make it work?

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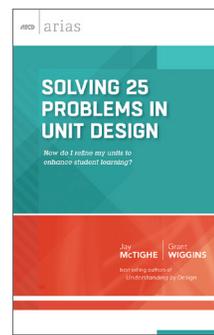
Learning from Coaching: How do I work with an instructional coach to grow as a teacher?

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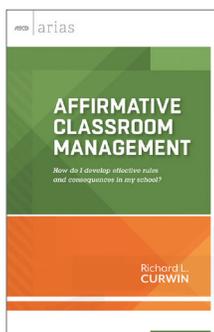
Fostering Grit: How do I prepare my students for the real world?

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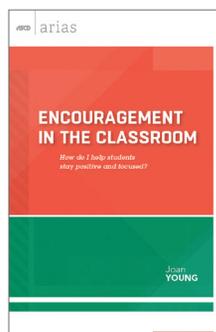
Solving 25 Problems in Unit Design: How do I refine my units to enhance student learning?

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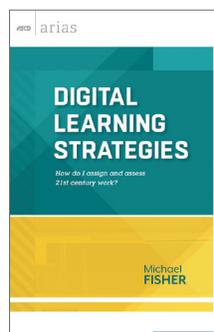
Affirmative Classroom Management: How do I develop effective rules and consequences in my school?

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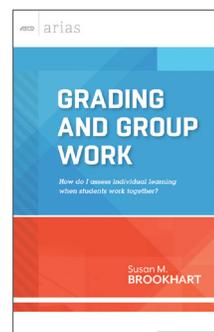
Encouragement in the Classroom: How do I help students stay positive and focused?

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The Strategic Teacher: Developing Every Teacher's Instructional Know-How

with Harvey Silver, Tom Dewing, and Daniel Moirao

July 30–August 1, 2015
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ANAHEIM, CA



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