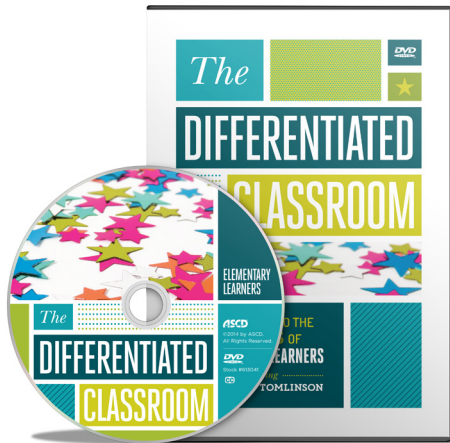


# ASCD STUDY GUIDE

## Differentiated Instruction in Elementary Classrooms



Welcome! As you view the video, use this brief study guide as a tool for recording your reflections about the classrooms featured and how these teachers are working hard to meet the needs of all their learners. Keep in mind that it is always difficult to know everything about a classroom or a teaching strategy when viewing a brief snapshot of a teaching episode; however, listening to the teachers' explanations can be helpful and illuminating.

**According to Carol Ann Tomlinson, what is differentiated instruction and what makes it challenging for teachers?**

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**How does her explanation of differentiation match your understanding? What is different? What would you add and why?**

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**Tomlinson lists five differentiation principles in the video (her "big ideas"). Based on your experience, in what ways do each of these principles affect student learning?**

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**DIFFERENTIATION IN ACTION**

Think about the principles of differentiation discussed in the video and use the following charts to reflect on this approach to teaching.

The teachers featured in this video are Justin Minkel (1st grade) and Anna Shaw (5th grade).

**What evidence did you see of each principle in the two classrooms? In the chart below, list this evidence and any other comments you may have.**

Principles of Differentiation	Evidence from Justin's Classroom	Evidence from Anna's Classroom	Comments
Supportive Learning Environment			
High-Quality Curriculum Clear Learning Goals Focus on Understanding Student Engagement			
Using Assessment to Inform Teaching and Learning			
Adjusting Instruction to Meet Learner Needs			
Leading and Managing a Classroom			

**What questions do you have for the teachers about how they considered the principles of differentiation in their teaching? In the chart below, list these questions.**

Principles of Differentiation	Questions for Justin	Questions for Anna
Supportive Learning Environment		
High-Quality Curriculum Clear Learning Goals Focus on Understanding Student Engagement		
Using Assessment to Inform Teaching and Learning		
Adjusting Instruction to Meet Learner Needs		
Leading and Managing a Classroom		

**APPLYING DIFFERENTIATION**

Reflect on your own differentiated instruction practices. Based on your role as either a classroom teacher or instructional leader, complete the appropriate activity below.

If you are a **classroom teacher**, use the chart below to list the actions you currently take to implement the differentiation principles as well as next steps to improve your practice.

Principles of Differentiation	Current Practices	Next Steps
Supportive Learning Environment		
High-Quality Curriculum Clear Learning Goals Focus on Understanding Student Engagement		
Using Assessment to Inform Teaching and Learning		
Adjusting Instruction to Meet Learner Needs		
Leading and Managing a Classroom		

If you are an **instructional leader**, use the space below to outline the steps you will take to improve teachers' efforts in implementing the differentiation principles.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Some resources you might consult to assist you with your efforts:**

- Tomlinson, C. A. (2014). *The Differentiated Classroom: Responding to the Needs of Learners* (2nd edition). Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Tomlinson, C. A., & Imbeau, M. B. (2014). *A Differentiated Approach to the Common Core*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Tomlinson, C. A., & Moon, T. R. (2013). *Assessment and Student Success in a Differentiated Classroom*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.
- Tomlinson, C. A., & Imbeau, M. B. (2010). *Leading and Managing a Differentiated Classroom*. Alexandria, VA: ASCD.