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Analysis of Three Instructional Methods for Supporting Secondary Instruction

Instructional methods are ways to help push students in the direction of becoming strategic, independent learners. When students can independently select their own appropriate strategies and use them effectively to complete tasks, these strategies become learning strategies in one's toolkit.

Instructional methods aim to inspire students by assisting them in focusing, organizing information for understanding, and monitor/evaluate their own learning. In order to become a successful strategic learner, students must be able to receive support and opportunities to build connections within these strategies and explore these skills to be able to apply them in real learning explorations. The three instructional methods I have chosen to analyze today are cooperative learning, group discussion, and independent study.

When using small groups in the classroom for cooperative learning, it involves students working together to maximize their own and each other's learning. This ensures that the success of the group as a whole depends on the success of each group member. This beneficial experience students endure enhances social and academic skills. The fact that students must collaborate with one another to achieve success and work toward a common objective is a limitation of this strategy. As a result, they must also rely on one another to accomplish their goals. Students who prefer to complete their own work and are more independent may find this extremely challenging. Overall, this strategy aims to support the idea of inclusivity while learning in activities like “think-pair-share”.

Students learn to express themselves and respond to opposing viewpoints by participating in an instructional method called group discussions. A small group or the entire class can participate in group discussions but do work well in groups of two to six students. Students gain the ability to effectively solve problems and gain perspective by participating in group discussions but the lack of control over the conversation, and the difficulty of ensuring that everyone has an equal voice is a limitation that may appear. Participating in group discussions enables students to effectively solve problems and gain perspective, but a potential limitation is the difficulty of ensuring that everyone has an equal voice and the lack of control over the conversation. Overall, this strategy strives to initiate conversation as well as put forth ideas within the students while learning in activities like brainstorming or talking groups.

Students can choose a focus for their independent study and define problems or questions, gather and analyze data, apply skills, and produce a product to demonstrate what they have learned. Students who have mastered fundamental research skills and a high degree of self-direction benefit most from this learning strategy. The benefit from this method is that this encourages an in-depth understanding of specific content areas tailored to the students interest. A limitation that may occur is that students may get discouraged or lack motivation and not complete the work requirements. Overall, this strategy works on independence while learning with activities like study plans and teacher-student intervention.

While teachers serve as facilitators, these three instructional strategies allow students to take some responsibility for their own learning. Group discussions and cooperative learning go hand in hand since they both rely on active student participation rather than passive, lecture-based teaching. In contrast, independent study uses individualistic learning concepts to gather, analyze, and report information on your own terms and at your own pace. Generally speaking, all three of these instructional methods are great to use for all ages as well as subject areas.

