

Presents...

The Practices of Highly Effective Classrooms



Introduction : What Causes Learning?

Module I

24 minutes of video
35 minutes completion time

Drawing on over 30 years of educational research, Dr. Robert Marzano, Dr. Harvey Silver and Dr. Richard Strong invite you to learn how their “five-pillar model” can transform classroom instruction. Hear how this panel of educational giants developed the repertoire of strategies and techniques suggested in this program. Then watch powerful examples of real teachers in action using these strategies in their classrooms. Listen as Dr. Marzano reveals the real difference between effective and ineffective schools – then explains the profound effect good teaching has on student achievement.



Hidden Skills of Academic Literacy

Module II:A

45 minutes of video
63 minutes completion time

What are the skills that separate high achievers from low achievers? Ten years of testing research shows that student success has very little to do with content knowledge – instead it depends heavily on a set of 12 core skills that cut across different content areas. Discover why each skill is important and why they are radically under-taught in our schools. Hear why reading and study skills are essential for students to interpret information. Learn how reflection and thinking skills empower students to address questions and tasks. Lastly, listen as Dr. Strong explains why asking students to take notes is a great way to get their attention – and open a window into their mind.



Ability to Make Sense of Abstract Academic Vocabulary

Module II:B

21 minutes of video
29 minutes completion time

It's no secret that students with good vocabularies and solid methods for learning new words tend to do well in school. This is because most learning involves processing and understanding unfamiliar vocabulary. This module will provide you with a proven method to help students organize and understand new words. Watch as a middle school math teacher helps her students activate “deep word processing.” Listen as an 8th grade social studies teacher engages her students in learning by making strong connections to the targeted vocabulary. The real classroom video featured in this module provides excellent examples of teachers finding opportunities for students to exercise, revise and practice their understanding of words.



Research-Based Strategies: Compare & Contrast

Module III

59 minutes of video
82 minutes completion time

Much of life is spent comparing things – it's second nature. Learn why teaching “compare & contrast” can be the big breakthrough that helps students deepen their understanding of content and become independent thinkers. Dr. Silver leads a lively discussion that examines the key elements of creating a “compare & contrast” lesson. Then watch an array of real classroom examples that show teachers using “compare & contrast” in their lessons. Notice how the teachers use “hooks” and “bridges” to engage the students. See first hand how teacher-questioning techniques are used to enhance student understanding. Discover how the skills gained by using comparison can help students strengthen their writing and enhance their working memory.



Learning Styles

Module IV:A

52 minutes of video
73 minutes completion time

An individual's thoughts and actions are as distinctive as a fingerprint. They are what make us unique. This module takes an in-depth look at how student thinking is affected by personality type and learning style. Dr. Strong explains how four basic principles can help you unlock a student's ability to comprehend and retain information. Examine the work of renowned author Carl Jung to get a deeper understanding of how perceptions and judgment affect thinking. Listen as Dr. Silver explores the relationship between learning style and attention – then offers an array of practical suggestions you can use to engage all students. This module lays the groundwork for you to consider and incorporate “learning style” into all of your lesson plans.



Task Rotation Strategy

Module IV:B

18 minutes of video
25 minutes completion time

Designed specifically to help teachers differentiate their instruction, the powerful “task rotation strategy” is an effective way to ensure that students with different learning styles are all actively engaged in learning. Listen as Dr. Silver illustrates how the task rotation strategy helps students see material in new ways, and investigate content more deeply. Watch a real teacher in action as he assigns tasks to his students. Then listen as students process what they have heard and summarize it orally to the class. See how this middle school teacher sets up task stations around the room and has the students rotate through at ten minute intervals. Implementing successful task rotation requires the teacher to be an effective coach who stands ready to assist students who need extra help. Watch as this middle school teacher effectively intervenes to provide needed guidance.



Curriculum and Unit Design – Part 1

Module V:A

18 minutes of video

25 minutes completion time

Designing curriculum that uses the strategies and suggestions offered in this program may seem like a daunting task. Learn how to break the process into smaller steps, or use a coach to help you achieve the results you are looking for. Discover why it is critical to clearly identify the goals and objectives for the learning unit in order to make planning, and alignment to state standards easier to achieve. Watch two teachers and a coach in action as they design a unit of learning for their upcoming class. Watch as teachers Andrea and Catherine incorporate learning styles, the hidden skills of academic literacy, and learning tools into their unit design. See how the five pillars of learning come together to create a truly dynamic and thoughtful unit.



Curriculum and Unit Design – Part 2

Module V:B

33 minutes of video

46 minutes completion time

A person's attitude is a critical predictor of performance – for both teachers and students. Learn how to identify clues to help assess attitude. Discover why simple strategies, like setting up a friendly debate between students helps hold the class' attention and change attitudes. Hear how simple moves like asking for supporting evidence from an assigned text helps students develop valuable skills for creating convincing arguments. Then take a critical look at your own attitudes as a teacher. Do you know how to make adjustments and corrections to increase your effectiveness? Listen as Dr. Silver facilitates a lively discussion where teachers offer a frank perspective on how attitude affects their work.



Instructional Learning Teams

Module VI

28 minutes of video

40 minutes completion time

Research has shown that 95 percent of what teachers learn through professional development is never put to use in their classrooms. Learn how to beat the odds by creating instructional learning teams that offer the critical support for teachers and administrators to implement new teaching strategies and techniques. Listen in as an actual instructional learning team of 15 educators from a middle school in Niagara-Wheatfield, New York is led by their Principal. Smaller groups of teachers can also effectively collaborate through learning clubs. Watch as this real learning club has conversations about instructional strategies, lesson design, standards and assessments.

