



Eureka!

Why Layered Curriculum

I have finally found a way to accomplish what I've always wanted to do in my teaching – give every student individualized instruction and one-on-one attention. I have confirmed my beliefs through more than a decade of teaching and my graduate studies:

- ❑ Students have different learning styles and different types of intelligence.
- ❑ Students learn best when they are able to use their intelligence to learn in their own style
- ❑ Students are more motivated and therefore more successful when they are allowed to select activities that interest them
- ❑ Students benefit from one-on-one attention

With 180 students attending my classes, it seems an impossible task to attempt instruction that addresses all these beliefs. [Kathie Nunley's Layered Curriculum](#), however, can deliver this miracle. She describes it as a solution for teachers with more than one student in their classroom. After 2 years of piloting this program, I know that can be successful for your child. It is worth the effort to give your child the best education possible.

Tips For Success

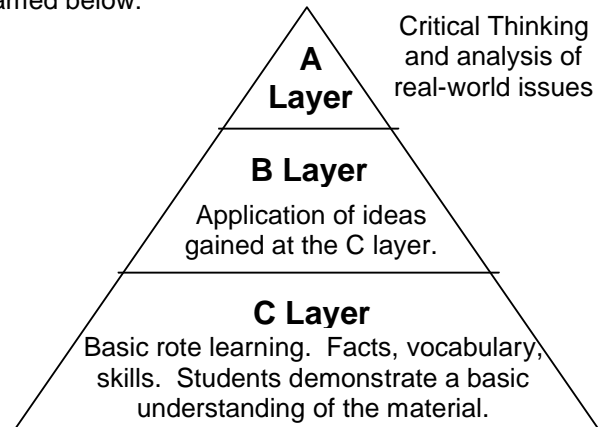
Students should

- ❑ Carefully select the activities that will best prepare them for the test and fit with their learning style and intelligence.
- ❑ Stay on task! Class time cannot be wasted.
- ❑ Stick to their planned schedule.
- ❑ NOT fall behind!
- ❑ Complete as homework anything not able to be completed in class.
- ❑ PLAN AHEAD and be prepared with the things they will need each day.

Layered Curriculum

A brief overview of how this will work

Layered Curriculum is built on 3 layers. They are diagramed below:



Students begin in the C Layer. They select from three learning activities. The activities are designed to allow choices for people of all intelligences and learning styles. Once students complete the C Layer, they move on to the B Layer. These are application activities that include labs and projects. Students choose one to complete from this layer. After completing the B Layer, students may select one project to complete to present their A Layer research. These are issues that will demand critical thinking skills to arrive at a conclusion they can support. Visit the [Unit Options & Rubrics](#) page of www.mrsporter.com to see the choices available in each layer and the grading rubrics.

Throughout the unit, students will be expected to be able to demonstrate what they are learning through periodic informal interviews. I will randomly ask students to tell me what they learned from certain assignments. This provides higher accountability for learning. Students will no longer be able to just get the work done – they will really have to actually learn something from it! Students know the due date of all activities at the start of the unit and are given class time to complete them (some *must* be done during class time). Students receive a daily grade for time On-Task. Any work not completed in class becomes homework as well as a few activity choices that must be done at home if they are selected.

Benefits of Layered Curriculum

HIGHLY INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

- ✧ Each student learns the same material in the way that is best for them
- ✧ Students use what they are strong in to Each student's interests, intelligences, and abilities are taken into account, recognized, celebrated, and used as part of the educational process
- ✧ Improve their areas of weakness
- ✧ Special education students' modifications are met without attention drawn to

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR LEARNING

- ✧ Students are required to demonstrate what they learned from each assignment rather than merely complete it

ONE-ON-ONE ATTENTION

- ✧ Student and teacher speak one-on-one frequently
- ✧ Students are far less likely to "fall through the cracks"

RESPONSIBILITY

- ✧ Students take ownership of their learning by choosing their activities and defending their knowledge gained.
- ✧ Students work independently to plan and carry out their schedule within a limited time framework, as well as being prepared with the materials for each day's work.

ACTIVE LEARNING

- ✧ Students are continuously engaged in the learning process rather than passive recipients of information
- ✧ Application and critical thinking activities (B & A Layers) mirror real world problems and situations.

SELF-ESTEEM

- ✧ Students experience success and are proud of their work.
- ✧ Students come to understand that they are unique and that is a good thing – everyone has abilities and gifts.
- ✧ Creativity is allowed to flourish

RESEARCHING SKILLS AND CRITICAL THINKING

- ✧ Students learn how to locate the information they need – a crucial skill for all those living in the "Information Age"
- ✧ Source documentation is introduced, preparing students for high school and college
- ✧ Critical thinking skills are used to solve problems, formulate opinions, and draw conclusions from collected information.

MANY, MANY MORE!