

Tiered Activities

Tiered activities are great for providing challenging opportunities for all students. Using this strategy, the teacher develops varied levels of activities, each meeting the objective of the lesson/assignment. This approach challenges each student to learn where he/she is cognitively – not a one-size-fits-all assignment. Assignments can be tiered in content, process, and/or product according to readiness, interest, and/or learning style. As students will be completing different assignments yet each meeting the same objective, the teacher find variety in their evaluation as well.

Steps to develop a tiered activity:

Identify the curriculum benchmark and select the activity organizer

Think about your students (use assessments to determine needs)

Create one activity that is interesting, high level, causes students to use key skill(s) to understand the key idea

Chart the complexity of the activity

Clone the activity along the ladder as needed to ensure challenge and success for your students

Match the task to student based on student profile and task requirements

Example: Students are studying ozone (what it is and why it is important to the atmosphere).

Easiest: Write a public service announcement for citizens of New Zealand

More Skill: Conduct a peer survey of awareness and understanding about the ozone problem.

Slightly above grade level: Write a position paper for a newsletter or news magazine with an audience of _____ (grade level) students.

Most challenging: Debate the issue of whether there is an ozone problem to which humans contribute.