Laying the Foundation

Busting Differentiation Myths and Identifying Truths

Starting Point: List-Write-Draw

Common Differentiation Myths

"Differentiation is not…

- Writing individualized lesson plans for every student
- Sorting or pigeonholing students into static groups or levels
- A way *out* of standards and learning goals
- More important for certain groups of students (e.g., students with IEPs or students learning English)
- A bag of tricks for certain lessons or big projects

Space for "Busting Myths" notes and reading:

Differentiation Definitions (jot down what you'd like to remember):

John 20:24-27 (NIV)

"Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.' A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' Then He said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe.'"

John 21:15-22 (NIV)

"When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.' Again, Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.' The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!' Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is going to betray you?') When Peter saw him, he asked, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.'

Reflection and Feedback

1. Revisit your "list-write-draw" from the beginning. Answer the following question:

Based on today's training, how has your thinking about differentiation stayed the same, how has it been challenged, or how have you added to your thinking?