Anchors

What is it?

Specified, engaging, and meaningful ongoing activities on which students work independently in class or at home and are used to answer the questions, "What do I do when I'm finished?" or, "What do I do until the teacher is ready for me?" The same Anchor can be assigned to all students, or differentiated based upon a Targeted Check.

Critical Attributes

- Curriculum-based
- Self-directed once the procedure is taught
- Allows students to remain engaged in learning during downtime or until the teacher is ready for them
- Can be short-term such as an agenda for the lesson, medium-term such as a weekly review packet, or long-term such as a RAFT assignment due at the end of a two week period

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Why use it?

- Allows students to remain engaged in learning during "down-time" such as the beginning of class or when they are awaiting help from the teacher
- Use to manage DI strategies such as Split Screen, Expert Partner Jigsaw, Think Dots
- Allows each student to learn at his/her level

What are the guidelines for successfully implementing this strategy?

- Teach the whole class the procedures/expectations for how Anchors are used in the course/class
- Provide clear instructions and expectations (rubric, checklists, etc.) for each Anchor
- Maintain accountability for on-task behavior and task completion
- Provide instruction and practice for concepts/content *prior* to them being used in an Anchor activity
- Use the Anchor to loop back through previous important content to increase retention