

## Processing Guide

### Introduction to Universal Design for Learning

#### SECTION ONE – INTRO TO UDL

#### Essential Questions

1. How can teachers meet the educational needs of their students?
  
2. To meet the needs of the widest range of students, what should teachers consider when planning instruction?

***UDL guides the design of learning environments that are accessible, accommodate the needs and abilities of all learners, and eliminate barriers that may impede learning.***

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) aims to improve and optimize teaching for all by:

- 1.
  
- 2.
  
- 3.

#### Traditional vs. UDL Aligned Instruction

In what ways does UDL promote greater inclusivity and equity in the classroom compared to traditional teaching methods?

Watch: [UDL at a Glance](#)

What resonated with you?

What takeaways can you use to improve instruction?

## SECTION TWO – UDL & EQUITY

***UDL is an expression of a belief that all students are capable of learning and that instruction, when crafted and implemented with this belief in mind, can help all students succeed in inclusive and equitable learning environments.***

Using your school system and/or school as a reference, identify some areas for improvement in our effort to build more equitable learning environments.

How are the core beliefs (variability, firm goals, and expert learning) critical in designing learning for all?

## SECTION THREE – CLEAR GOALS & FLEXIBLE MEANS

**Learning Goal: Students will write the meaning of 20 selected vocabulary words as they are used in The Young Warrior.**

The UDL framework states that learning goals should be flexible and accessible, allowing all learners the opportunity to attain them. Reflect on the following:

1. Is this learning goal flexible?
2. How can we rewrite the goal to be inclusive so that all learners will have the opportunity to achieve it?
3. How can students express their understanding of the vocabulary words flexibly?



**SECTION FOUR – VARIABILITY IS THE RULE & IS CONTEXTUAL**



***“Learner variability is the rule, not the exception.”***

1. In what way does this image connect with traditional educational practices?
2. What is the danger of the one-size-fits-all approach to education?

Watch: [Todd Rose: Variability Matters](#)

How does your view of variability inform your instructional process?

What variability do you see among your students?

**SECTION FIVE – THE BARRIER IS IN THE ENVIRONMENT**

According to Universal Design for Learning (UDL), there are several barriers to learning that can affect students such as inaccessible materials, language and literacy difficulties, cognitive overload, stereotypes and biases, and social and emotional factors. UDL emphasizes the importance of removing these barriers to create inclusive learning environments.

1. What barriers to learning have you observed in your students? What strategies have you used to address these barriers?

Read: [Breaking Down Barriers: Empowering Educators through Universal Design for Learning](#)

What resonated with you in this article?

Which of the recommended strategies can you commit to doing more of and/or introduce to your practice?