

Building Deeper Learning Cheat Sheet

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For two years I have been keeping track of tidbits on great learning from blogs, books, school visits, and more discussions than I can track. Here is my current list of ways that great teachers build three of the most important elements of deeper learning:

Increasing Student Engagement

- Working with peers
- Connect with the real world; link frequently to current events
- Get out of seats
- Demonstrate enthusiasm
- Use visuals
- Give students choice; focus on *intrinsic* motivation
- Demonstrate frequent empathy
- Mix things up
- Working with technology
- Teachers have fun

Increasing Curiosity

- Value and reward curiosity
- Empower students to ask questions that drive curriculum
- Encourage students to tinker, both physically and mentally
- Put curious and less curious students in the same working groups
- Value and teach skepticism
- Explore a variety of cultures
- Visibly model curiosity for your students

Building a Student-Centered Classroom

- Students feel valued, respected, and part of the whole team
- Students are held responsible for their learning
- Students make decisions about the physical learning environment
- Students are expected to make choices on projects, assignments, and partners
- Teachers inquire about the needs of their students
- The physical set-up of the room is dynamic
- Students get most of the “air time” during class
- Teachers have a balanced role as facilitator, instructor, and coach