

Encouraging Independent Learning in the Classroom

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“The essence of independence is to be able to do something for one’s self.”



- Maria Montessori

To what extent are we allowing our students to do this in our classrooms?

Philosophy: The Importance of Independence

“The environment itself will teach the child, if every error he makes is manifest to him, without the intervention of a parent or teacher, who should remain a quiet observer of all that happens.”

- Maria Montessori

“I never teach my pupils. I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn.”

- Albert Einstein

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

- Benjamin Franklin

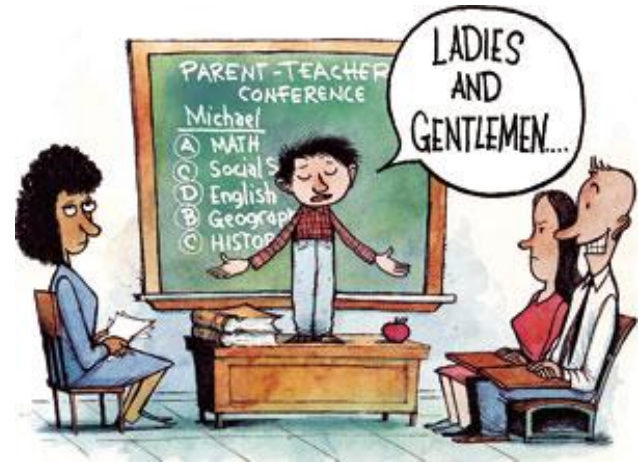
Average attention span can range from 10-20mins depending on age



What can an independent learner do?

An independent learner has a wide set of skills such as:

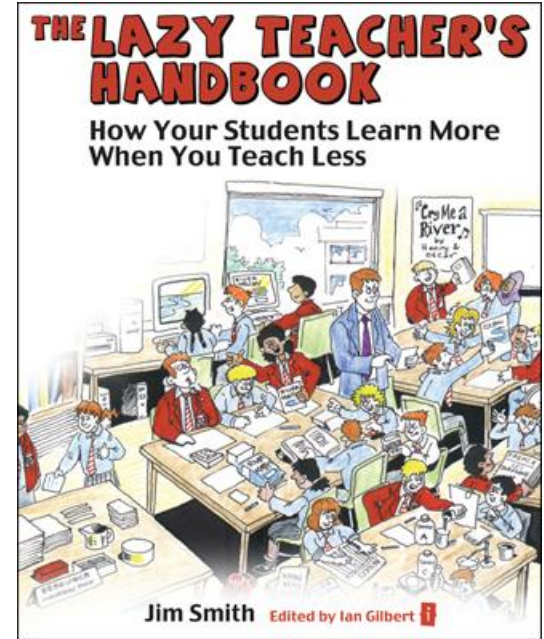
- Critical thinking
- Self-management and reflection
- Decision making
- Information processing
- Collaboration



How to be a 'Lazy' Teacher

“When you become a lazy teacher, you will employ a series of strategies that put the **responsibility of learning** directly and consistently onto the students. In doing so they learn to engage with their own learning, and not just in *what* they have learned but in *how* they learned it. In other words it is not just learning outcomes but the process of learning itself.”

- Introduction, Jim Smith



Practice: Strategies, 3 part lesson

1. Whole class instruction

(Teacher Led)

2. **Activity**

(Learner centered)

3. Review

(Learner Led)



Idea 1: Be the Instructor

1. Read and highlight key information in your assigned extract
2. Find someone with a different extract and exchange key information



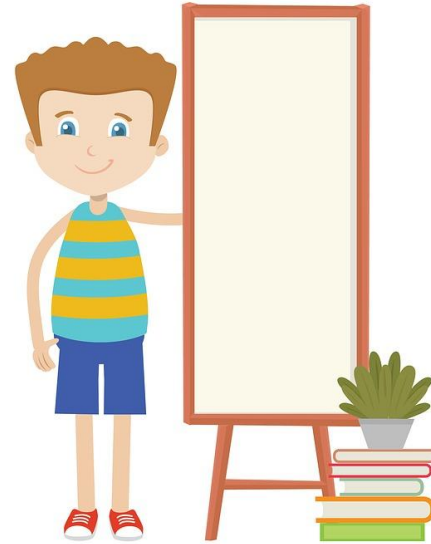
Idea 2: Effective Group Work

1. In your groups annotate your assigned stanzas - look for specific language Duffy uses to convey her ideas.
2. Be prepared to share and present your ideas as a group to the class.



Some More Ideas!

- Questioning
- Mini lessons/group presentations
- Notetaker/scribe
- Self-assessment using objectives/rubric
- Lesson summary/review by student
- Acting out scenarios



How can you be a lazier teacher?

Consider 2-3 activities you could implement/already implement in your own class that would encourage your students to be more actively involved in their own learning.

Share with the person next to you.

