



Elevate Your Instruction With 5 Quick Tips

1. Anchor every decision in student data.

Start with what the data is already trying to show you. A quick scan of trends, strengths, gaps, and patterns, will tell you the appropriate next steps.

2. Teach the standard, not the activity.

When planning, identify the exact skill(s) students must demonstrate. Activities should serve the standard, not the other way around.

3. Build routines that make thinking visible.

Simple structures like annotation, quick writes, or turn-and-talks reveal what students do and do not understand long before an assessment at the end of a unit of study.

4. Align your classroom and assessment questions to the rigor you expect.

If students only practice recall, surface-level questions, they'll struggle with deeper levels of thinking. Ask questions that mirror the cognitive demand of your state standards and the expectations of local school and/or division initiatives.

5. Keep instruction coherent across days, not only within a lesson.

Students learn best when skills connect and build. A clear through-line between lessons, units, etc. is more powerful than standalone lessons.