



STEM Literacy Project - Inquiry Continuum

	Teacher Directed			Teacher Facilitated
	EMERGING	EXPERIMENTAL	TRANSITIONAL	PROFICIENT
Teacher-facilitated Learning 	Teacher prefers using conventional teaching methods.	Teacher experiments with teacher-facilitated learning on a limited basis.	Teacher uses facilitated learning with increasing frequency.	Teacher engages students in complex inquiry-based learning activities with high levels of student input.
Knowledge Acquisition 	Content is transmitted from teacher to students.	Some knowledge is generated from student responses and input with majority of knowledge still transmitted by teacher.	Knowledge is generated from teacher and from students.	Teacher expects and facilitates student input resulting in knowledge being generated equally by teacher and students.
Instructional Method 	Predominant method of teaching is whole group.	Predominant method of teaching is whole group, but teacher experiments with small groups.	Methods of teaching include a mix of strategies but strategies are not always matched appropriately to instruction.	Methods of teaching include a variety of strategies appropriately matched to instruction and student needs.
Authentic Learning 	Learning experiences are not tied to authentic contexts and problems.	Learning experiences reference authentic problems in largely superficial ways.	Activities and projects include some real-world, authentic problems.	Real world, authentic problems are essential to learning.
Self-directed Learning 	Learning activities challenge students to recall ideas.	Learning activities challenge students to analyze ideas.	Learning activities challenge students to analyze ideas and apply them to new contexts.	Learning activities challenge students to engage in synthesis, evaluation, and/or creation of new ideas.
Questioning 	Questions are provided by teacher, text, or other materials.	Learner selects from questions provided.	Students develop questions and are guided to refine and clarify questions with input from the teacher.	Students generate, refine, and clarify questions to guide inquiry.
Data 	Students follow step-by-step procedures from the teacher to collect and organize data into tables, charts, & graphs.	Students are instructed to collect data. Tables, charts, and graphs are provided to organize the data collected.	Students are given suggestions for collecting data, constructing tables, charts, and graphs to organize the data collected.	Students decide how and what data to collect and construct tables, charts, and graphs to organize data collected.