

Make Room for Quad D Instruction with Flipped Classrooms

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It has been amazing to be a part of this flipped classroom experience. Not only has my awareness and understanding of the flipped classroom model been enhanced, but my view of the future of education has been greatly enriched.

The flipped classroom format provides more opportunities for students to apply content knowledge. This opens the door for 'Quad D' rigorous and relevant learning opportunities for all. In this model teachers shift from directors and disseminators of knowledge to facilitators and coaches of learning. This is crucial for the future of education. For the first time, educators are preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist. We are no longer prepping students for one finite career requiring a discrete skill set. Instead, we are tasked with helping students gain a variety of interpersonal skills in preparation for (often) several careers that could rely on technologies that have yet to be created.

Our current students have information at the ready. This means that the emphasis of today's classrooms needs to shift from 'what content to learn' to 'how to learn'. It is becoming less important for students to learn facts and information and increasingly more important for students to learn how to synthesize information from multiple sources, make connections, draw conclusions, evaluate sources, communicate their thoughts and ideas, and collaborate effectively.

Flipped lessons help make space for this kind of essential learning that needs to be commonplace in today's classrooms. I'm grateful to NHSTE and the Chris Nelson Memorial grant for this professional growth opportunity.