Inclusive Education

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

# Expert learners and learner agency

A suggestion for implementing the strategy 'Find out about UDL' from the Guide:
Universal Design for Learning

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**Includes:**


What are expert learners?

Characteristics of an expert learner

Barriers to developing expertise

Who can be expert learners?

Reflection questions

Useful resources

Inclusive Education
From
Guide: Universal Design for Learning
Strategy: Find out about UDL
Suggestion: Expert learners and learner agency
Date
19 May 2024
Link
inclusive.tki.org.nz/guides/universal-design-for-learning/expert-learners-and-learner-agency

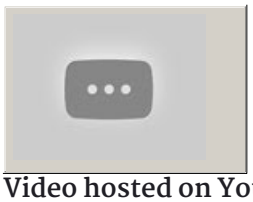
# What are expert learners?

In a UDL context, expert learners are:

- ✔ **puposeful and motivated** (they can manage themselves when they get stuck, collaborate with others, focus on a task, are resilient)
- ✔ **resourceful and knowledgable** (they can find and curate information, connect ideas to create new understandings, transfer understandings across contexts)
- ✔ **strategic and goal-directed** (they can break-down a task, manage deadlines, organise resources, communicate thinking).

# Characteristics of an expert learner

David Rose, Co-founder of the UDL describes the characteristics of an expert learner.



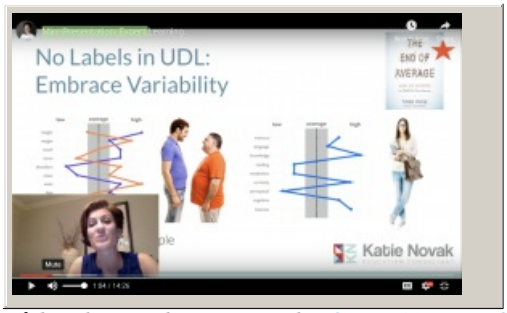
**Video hosted on Youtube** http://youtu.be/8HykYqfn79c

Closed Captions

**Source:**
Joni Degner (US)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDufgHYhSpBDQ6-GpUAtk-w

# Barriers to developing expertise

Katie Novak describes how our current teaching practices often don't allow students to become expert learners.




**Video hosted on Youtube** http://youtu.be/mYWR3nW_Eso

No captions or transcript

**Source:**
Katie Novak (US)
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkm3lEcokOluQFLNltqZ7gQ

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# Who can be expert learners?

## Developing expertise applies to everyone.

The goal of developing expertise applies to all participants: students, teachers, and all of the personnel in the system itself.

If everyone is focused on developing expertise as a learner, the context is suffused with great models.

**Anne Meyer, David H. Rose, and David Gordon**

**Source:**
Universal design for learning: Theory and practice
http://udltheorypractice.cast.org

# Reflection questions

How does the idea of expertise in learning impact on your thinking?

How could the idea of expert learners impact your practice?

How do students develop expertise as learners?

What attitudes and habits indicate that learners are developing expertise?

# Useful resources

## Top 5 UDL tips for fostering expert learners

These tips can be used to support the development of expert learners.

Publisher: CAST

**Visit website**

## The goal of UDL: Becoming expert learners

Read time: 2 min

A succinct overview of the goal of UDL, aligned to UDL's three principles.

**Visit website**

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