

Create goals and scaffold challenge

Whenever possible, involve students in the design of learning objectives, goals and levels of challenge.

Making goals/intentions clear

- Develop clear goals with associated criteria.
- Discuss with students the context, goal, and purpose of learning activities.
- Ensure students understand what the learning goal actually means.
- Display the goal in multiple ways: on the board, a handout, a class website/blog, a poster, in their book, on a Google Doc, or a chart.
- Offer a variety of exemplars where students have expressed understanding of goals in different ways.

Scaffolding challenge

- Offer open inquiry activities with optional built-in supports.
- Offer different degrees of complexity for learning activity.
- Support students with just enough challenge but not too much that they shut down. Tools such as Mathletics allow students to learn new concepts with graduated levels, guided assistance, and scaffolding.

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