

Grantee: USD 443 - Dodge City Public Schools

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Biography Driven Instruction:

Biography Driven Instructional (BDI) strategies use an assets based approach to contextualize the learning for students. These strategies are designed to access the student's funds of knowledge, assist teachers in capitalizing on what the student already knows and help make instruction meaningful. BDI strategies are designed with three essential phases; Activation, Connection, and Affirmation.

- **Activation: A Canvas of Opportunity**
 - During this phase funds of knowledge, prior knowledge and academic knowledge are activated to reveal the student's background knowledge. Students uncover this knowledge as the teacher observes.
- **Connection: The Broad and Narrow Strokes of Learning**
 - During this phase the teacher serves as a facilitator in revoicing students learning, and assisting in confirming/disconfirming their learning. Students have an opportunity to relate their known to the unknown.
- **Affirmation: A Gallery of Understanding**
 - During this phase teachers affirm student learning through authentic assessment and students celebrate their learning.

How do we know it's working?

Individual student data shows that students have made a significant amount of progress on the KELPA, KAP, and localized assessments over the last three years. Students are engaged and active participants in their learning.

KSU College of Education: Biography Driven Instruction

<https://coe.ksu.edu/academics/departments/center-for-intercultural-multilingual-advocacy/biography-crt/>

References

- Herera, Socorro. *Biography-Driven Culturally Responsive Teaching*. New York: Teachers College, 2016. Print.
- Herera, Socorro Shabina Kavimandan, Della R. Perez, and Stephanie Wessels. *Accelerating Literacy for Diverse Learners*. New York: Teachers College, 2017. Print.
- Herera, Socorro Guadalupe, Melissa Holmes, and Shabina Kavimandan. *Crossing the Vocabulary Bridge: Differentiated Strategies for Diverse Secondary Classrooms*. New York: Teachers College, 2011. Print.