

Instruction: Get the Biggest Bang for your Buck!

Many teachers have been talking about John Hattie's book, *Visible Learning for Teachers*. The main ideas of Hattie's book are:

- Know your impact! Expert teachers focus on evaluating the effects certain instructional strategies have on students, and adjust their teaching methods accordingly.
- When teaching and learning are "visible" – that is, when it is clear what teachers are teaching and what students are learning, student achievement increases.

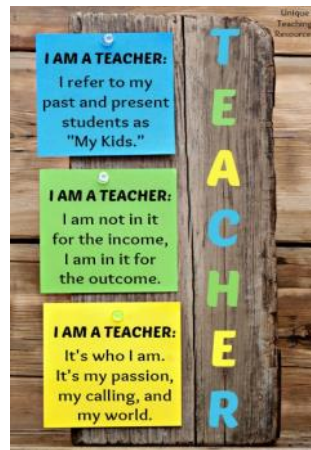
Hattie synthesized over 50,000 studies related to achievement in students, and conducted the largest evidence-based research project in education. Hattie explains there are practices we know are effective and practices we know are not. *Visible Learning* outlines the factors that have the greatest impact on student learning. The findings in Hattie's book are useful because he provides information teachers can immediately put into practice.

Check out [6 high-yield strategies](#) that have been found to have the greatest positive impact on student achievement.

HIGH-YIELD STRATEGY SPOTLIGHT

One of the most effective strategies is helping students **identify similarities and differences**. Here are just a few activities/teaching ideas that could be implemented (each linked to a template or explanation):

- 1) [Vocabulary Knowledge Rating Chart](#)
- 2) [Anticipate Guide](#)
- 3) [Frayer Vocabulary Model](#)
- 4) [Text Impressions](#)
- 5) [Give One, Get One](#)
- 6) [Concept Circles](#)
- 7) [Semantic Feature Analysis](#)



Power PD

What is Power PD?

Brief (20-30 minute) sessions specifically designed to assist teachers in implementing district and building goals...feel free to contact a coach if you would like a specific topic covered!

March Sessions: Vocabulary Model At Work—Tier II Words

- Middle School: Tues 3/10 in IMC
- Junior High: Mon 3/16 in IMC
- High School: Thurs 3/12 in IMC

Vocabulary Instruction

An effective strategy for teaching vocabulary is what Marzano refers to as *the six-step process* (Marzano, 2004). It involves the following steps:

1. Provide a description, explanation, or example of the new term.
2. Ask students to restate the description, explanation, or example in their own words.
3. Ask students to construct a picture, pictograph, or symbolic representation of the term.
4. Engage students periodically in activities that help them add to their knowledge of the terms in their vocabulary notebooks.
5. Periodically ask students to discuss the terms with one another.
6. Involve students periodically in games that enable them to play with terms.

Click on the following link for a packet with activity ideas and explanations for each step: [Marzano's Six Step Vocabulary](#)

Here is an excellent article from *Educational Leadership* which outlines the procedures and proven benefits of this method for vocabulary instruction. <http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept09/vol67/num01/Six-Steps-to-Better-Vocabulary-Instruction.aspx>

Some big ideas from the article include:

- ◆ When students copy the teacher's explanation or description of a word instead of generating their own explanation, the results are not as strong. Ideally, student explanations should come from their own lives.
- ◆ The third step in the process is essential —having students represent their understanding of a new word by drawing a picture, pictograph, or symbol. When students do this step well, achievement increases.
- ◆ Games can engage students at a high level and can have a powerful effect on students' recall of new words. Games not only add some fun to the teaching and learning process, but also provide an opportunity to review the terms in a nonthreatening way.

We are here to help! Contact a coach for support in any of these areas!

Tech Corner

Check out this free, easy-to-use website for creating infographics, presentations, banners and more! (must sign in with Google) [Picktochart](#)

[Vocabulary.com](#) provides interactive vocabulary practice for students—teachers can create lists or search previously created lists from other educators

Teaching Channel Videos: [Vocab in classroom conversation](#) and [teaching difficult vocabulary](#)

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