

GRADUATED DIFFICULTY

Create three to four different levels of work. Each level has similar types of problems. Direct your students to complete a specific number of problems. The number of assigned problems should be more than contained in one level, forcing students into at least 2 levels.

Student Rules:

- You choose the best level for you
- You may work at any level, change levels
- You may also create a new level of problems
- You may also create some problems to add to a level

Graduated difficulty works well with skill review activities. When students are reviewing a skill, for instance diagramming sentences, simplifying fractions or editing sentences for correct punctuation, develop a sheet that has 3 to 4 different skill levels. Let students choose the problems they will complete.

WHY IT WORKS

- Choice is a powerful motivator
- Students are working in their zone
- Students usually start at their level of confidence, then try something harder
- The internal dialogue in the brain has switched from "I hate doing this" to "Where should I start? Which ones can I do easily? What is something a little bit harder?"