

Teach in the Zone

REFRAME YOUR ROLE

You are now a Designer of Challenges. Your job is to place students in an uncomfortable situation. It has a solution, it's just not clear to them.

START WITH THE PROBLEM

Give students the situation before the information. Let them look at it, wrestle with it, and even misunderstand it.

NOW TEACH THEM

Tell the students what they need to know. Show them the tools, the information, the facts that will help them reach a solution. This is where you teach the lesson. Let them take notes.

MAKE STRUGGLE AND FAILURE NORMAL

Let your students try something, perhaps fail, and be confused. Then discuss it. This is the perfect time to talk about what they are learning.

DON'T RESCUE

Resist the urge to rescue your students. Don't leave them stranded; you will give them hints along the way, but not the answer.

LET THEM FIND THE ANSWERS

When you've given them enough support, your students will discover the answers and solutions. They will make the connections you need them to, and the learning process will come full circle.

REFLECT AND CELEBRATE

Conclude the problem-solving cycle with a discussion. Reflect on what they were unsure about, what they thought would happen, what they tried, and how they solved the problem.