

Teaching for Understanding: Definition

Teaching for Understanding: Teaching for Understanding is leading students toward being able to do a variety of thought-provoking things with a topic, such as explaining, finding evidence in examples, generalizing, applying, making analogies, and representing the topic in new ways. Teachers aid students to make connections between prior knowledge and new knowledge to develop understanding of a concept. Teachers who teach for understanding 1) make learning a long-term, thinking-centered process, 2) engage students in authentic work, 3) provide for rich ongoing assessment, 4) support learning with powerful representations, 5) pay heed to developmental factors, 6) induct students into the discipline, and 7) teach for transfer, 8) pay heed to learner differences.

1. *Blythe, T., & Perkins, D. (1998). Understanding understanding. In T. Blythe (Ed.), The teaching for understanding guide (pp. 9-16). San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.*

2. *Darling-Hammond, Linda.*

3. *Gardner, H., & Boix Mansilla, V. (1994, February). Teaching for understanding within and across the disciplines. Educational Leadership, 51 (5), 14-18.*

4. *Perkins, D., (1993, Fall). Teaching for Understanding. American Educator: The Professional Journal of the American Federation of Teachers; v17 n3, pp. 8,28-35.*

5. *Wiske, M. S. (Ed.). (1998). Teaching for understanding: Linking research with practice. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.*

