

## Instructional Strategies

### Think-Tac-Toe

This strategy uses the idea of the tic-tac-toe game and challenges students to review and apply content, to reinforce knowledge of the subject, and to provide student choice and fun! This is similar to a graphic organizer which provides differentiation for students' learning styles or needs. *Think-Tac-Toe* allows students to express their learning in unique ways. Make sure to include tasks that incorporate reading, writing, drawing, building, creating, etc.

#### Steps:

Identify the outcomes and instructional focus of a unit of study.  
Use assessment data and student profiles to determine student readiness, learning styles, or interests when planning tasks.  
Design nine different tasks and arrange the board.  
Select one required task for all students. Place it in the center of the board.  
Students complete three tasks, one of which must be the task in the middle square. The three tasks should complete a Think-Tac-Toe row.

### Reading Responses

Writing a reading response should be a daily activity for students. After students listen to a story, participate in a class discussion, and turn-and-talk to a neighbor, students can individually draw and write a response to the story. You can allow the response to be open-ended for the student or provide a specific prompt focused on characters, plots, elements, etc.

## Assessment Strategies

### Student Portfolios

Portfolios show the cumulative efforts and learning of a student over time. A portfolio helps students better understand their own learning as evidenced by their work. They offer valuable data about improvement and skill mastery. The process of keeping ongoing records of their work engages students and helps them move beyond *getting a grade* to see where they started and the progress they are making toward a learning goal. There are numerous forms of portfolios such as growth, performance, showcase, evaluation, etc.

It is extremely important to include the student in the process of selecting what will be placed in the portfolio. You may require certain pieces to be included in the portfolio, but always allow students to add additional pieces.

When starting the portfolio process...

*keep it simple*  
*determine your goals and purpose for the portfolio*  
*create a checklist*  
*explain the process to students and encourage them to take an active role in the development of their portfolios*

[Types of Student Portfolios](#)



## Classroom / Time Management Strategies

### Class Coupons

Provide opportunities for students to earn class coupons by displaying good behavior, social skills, work habits, exemplary work, etc.

Below are a few ideas for coupons:

Special Seat Pass: Students can choose to sit anywhere (or on anything) in the classroom.

Pick Your Job Pass: Students can choose whichever job they want when it is time to change.

Desk Swap Pass: Students can change desks with another student for the day (with teacher approval).

