

Minding the Gap

*Enhancing the Instructor's Impact on
Student Learning*

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Mind the Gap!

The “Gap” can be a very tricky and hazardous place! A misstep, uneven elevation, or unseen movement can be very unpleasant!



But, the gap must be crossed!



An instructor must accurately determine the size of the gap and its relative location.



There are three distinct phases of instruction and assessment that must be considered.

Pre-Instruction—*THE PLATFORM*

Post-Instruction—*THE TRAIN*

Instruction—*THE GAP*



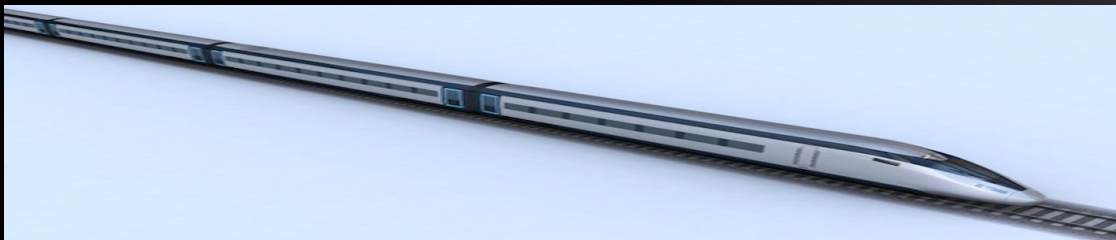
The Platform

- Previous knowledge, skills, experiences, and attitudes play a factor
- The most stable component although some movement is inevitable
- Establishment of the starting point is critical
- Pretests, interviews, observations, and analysis of data are often used to establish benchmarks



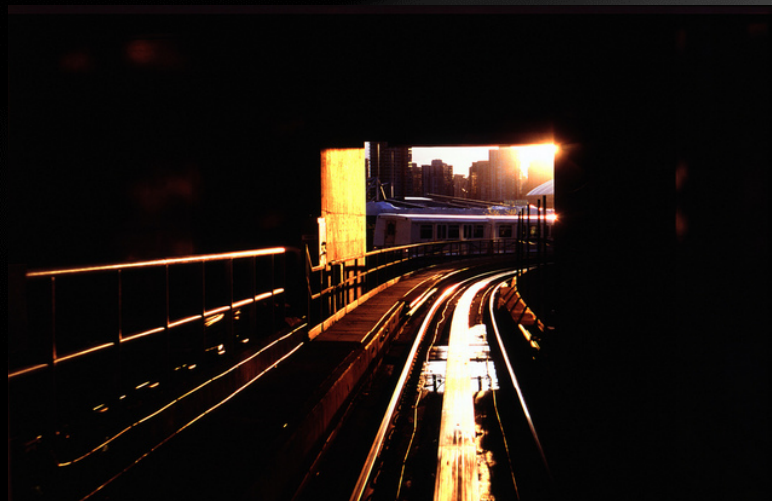
The Train

- Must establish where students need to be at the end of the lesson
- Movement is expected and generally desirable
- Grades are often used as the destination, but growth is truly the goal
- Impact on Student Learning is critical
- Post-tests, interviews, observations, and analysis of data are often used to establish impact/growth



The Gap

- This is where learning takes place
- Requires unwavering commitment to the teaching and learning process
- Preparation and planning are critical
- A comprehensive and varied approach to delivery improves results



Covenantal Teaching

- Requires commitment, preparation and planning, and a comprehensive and varied approach to delivery
- A contract is not necessarily a covenant
 - No “get out’ clauses
 - Committed at all costs
 - Highly affective and personal to the point of bordering on a “calling”
 - Truly an investment, rather than a set of tasks



Preparation and Planning

- Development of instructional lesson plans takes on a new, higher relevance
- Performance goals and objectives are the foundation
- Planning for active learning must be involved



Instructional Strategies

- Active learning strengthens impact
- All learning domains must be considered
- Possible strategies include
 - Project-based activities
 - Collaborative learning
 - Formative instruction such as tasks, case studies, and assessments



In Conclusion

- *Minding the Gap* is critical to ensure a strong impact on student learning!
- We must establish the benchmark!
- We must measure student gain to determine impact of the instructor!
- We must use varied and proven practices in our instructional plan!
- We must be fully committed to the students and the educational process!



For more information or to continue
the discussion, please contact...

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