Using **Anchor(ing)** Activities
RAPID ROBIN

The “Dreaded Early Finisher”
“I’m Not Finished” Freddie

“It takes him an hour-and-a-half to watch 60 Minutes.”
A Good Resource

How to Differentiate Instruction in Mixed Ability Classrooms

By Carol Ann Tomlinson
University of Virginia

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One premise in a differentiated classroom:

“In this class we are never finished---
Learning is a process that never ends.”
Anchor Activities

Anchor activities are ongoing assignments that students can work on independently throughout a unit, a grading period or longer.
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Anchor activities are ongoing assignments that students can work on independently throughout a unit of study or longer.
Some Anchor Activities

- “Brain Busters”
- Learning Packets
- Activity Box
- Learning/Interest Centers
- Vocabulary Work
- Accelerated Reader
- Investigations
- MSPAP or CRT Practice Activities
- Magazine Articles with Generic Questions or Activities
- Listening Stations
- Research Questions or Projects
- Commercial Kits and Materials
- Journals or Learning Logs
- Silent Reading (Content Related?)
The Purpose of an Anchor Activity is to:

Provide meaningful work for students when they finish an assignment or project, when they first enter the class or when they are “stumped”.

Provide ongoing tasks that tie to the content and instruction.

Free up the classroom teacher to work with other groups of students or individuals.
Using Anchor Activities to Create Groups

1. Teach the whole class to work independently and quietly on the anchor activity.

2. Half the class works on anchor activity. Other half works on a different activity.

3. 1/3 works on anchor activity. 1/3 works on a different activity. 1/3 works with teacher---direct instruction.
ANCHOR ACTIVITIES

Can be:

- used in any subject
- whole class assignments
- small group or individual assignments
- tiered to meet the needs of different readiness levels

Interdisciplinary for use across content areas or teams
ANCHOR ACTIVITIES

Work best:

- when expectations are clear and the tasks are taught and practiced prior to use.
- when students are held accountable for on task behavior and/or task completion.
Planning for Anchor Activities

Subject/Content Area:

Name and description of anchor activity:

How will activity be introduced to students?

How will the activity be managed and monitored?
- Points
- Rubric
- Checklist
- Random Check
- On Task Behaviors
- Percentage of Final Grade
- Portfolio Check
- Teacher/Student Conference
- Peer Review
- Other _______________