EXPLORE 6 EDUCATOR INSIGHTS FOR DIGITAL INSTRUCTION

The pandemic resulted in teachers having to stretch, grow, and teach in ways they had never done before. Partners at EdWeek Marketing Solutions and Gale, a Cengage company, collaborated with district and school leaders to uncover six best practices to enhance digital learning with *Gale In Context: For Educators*, which puts robust content, standards-based lesson plans, rich media, and on-demand professional development into the hands of educators.

1 START WITH GREAT CONTENT

Great instruction begins with great resources. To start, double-check that your database(s) provides curriculum-aligned instructional content by state or national standards, grade level, and subject area. Gold star if the digital tools include curated texts, multimedia resources, lesson plans, and research-based activities that allow teachers to organize assignments for in-person or virtual learning.

"Educators see lessons already built around their curriculum and tied to standards in the Gale databases. This strengthens their use as supplemental resources for any curriculum they already have."

—Kristin Dages, media tech coordinator for Hudson City Schools, Ohio

2 DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTION AND PERSONALIZE LEARNING

Educators are continuously customizing learning for their students as they transition back and forth between in-person and virtual instruction. Rigorous content and digital tools allow teachers to use the same resources to personalize materials for diverse learners that are age- and grade-level appropriate and aligned to learning standards.

"Building our capacity of content allows us to differentiate instruction and customize learning for our kids. Gale supports our teachers' abilities to guide students in self-directed learning whether they are working on curriculum projects or just exploring a topic of interest to them like global warming."

—Doreen Osmun, assistant superintendent, Hudson City Schools, Ohio

3 MAKE IT COLLABORATIVE

With evolving transitions from in-person to distance and blended learning, digital collaboration is more important than ever. Set up collaborative projects that use information from multiple content areas to build resources for students. Take advantage of digital tools to research, collaborate, and present results of individual or class projects.

"*Gale In Context: For Educators* acts like a learning management system for the rest of the Gale databases. If I want to pull information about the Civil War, for example, it shows me all the articles on that topic from the databases, and I can organize them into folders. Then the folders can be uploaded to Schoology®, and I can share the content with students or colleagues."

—Melissa Chandler, librarian/media specialist, Milford High School, Ohio

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4 | TEACH INFORMATION LITERACY

Credible digital databases allow educators to teach students the best strategies to search for information, vet the validity of information, analyze, and report on the findings of their research.

"Our students are learning that horizontal research of vetting facts and making sure that what they're reading and learning about is accurate. The different kinds of content formats are super important to help prepare students for where they're headed. They've got to consume, create, and report information digitally."

—Kristin Dages, media tech coordinator, Hudson City Schools, Ohio

5 | PRACTICE CRITICAL THINKING

Have students discuss topics that have no right or wrong answer, determine between fact and opinion, or find different ways to solve a problem. A Gallup study reported that teachers who frequently use such creative teaching practices are more likely to have students who demonstrate self-confidence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.[1]

"I feel like we are giving our Milford students a step up in their researching skills as they move to the next level to college. We teach them how to differentiate between average and good content and how to find it."

—Melissa Chandler, librarian/media specialist, Milford High School, Ohio

6 | USE EMBEDDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOOLS

Look for on-demand training videos and sample projects to help educators take charge of their own professional learning. Direct educators to videos that focus specifically on online teaching skills and virtual lesson planning. This directly impacts teacher confidence, the quality of instruction, and learning outcomes.

"Gale offers an opportunity to take teaching to the next level with the robust resources that allow teachers to explore and collaborate. Teachers have worked incredibly hard during the pandemic to meet the needs of their students. There are a lot of great things to help teachers be successful."

—Doreen Osmun, assistant superintendent, Hudson City Schools, Ohio

WHAT'S NEXT?

SET EDUCATORS UP FOR SUCCESS

Save time, enhance instruction, and provide students with equitable and personalized learning opportunities. Learn how at **gale.com/begin**.

TAP INTO PANDEMIC RELIEF FUNDS

Maximize your district's pandemic relief funds with Gale's proven K-12 educational resources that support unfinished learning. Get started at **gale.com/funding**.

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1. Sparks, Sarah, "A Creativity Conundrum: Can Schools Teach Students to Innovate?" *EducationWeek*, February 4, 2020

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