

Top Ten Tips for Teachers

Here are the **Top Ten Tips** experienced *myPerspectives* teachers think you should know as you get started.

Backwards Design

The Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) in each unit is supported by two Performance Tasks and all text selection in the unit. Use the Table of Contents in your Teacher's Edition to create a Unit Concept Board that helps students understand these connections from day 1.

Knowledge Building

Text comprehension relies on world and word knowledge. Units build content knowledge alongside literacy skills. Each unit's theme and Carefully sequence text selections equip students to answer the unit's Essential Question. Create a Unit Concept Board establish a purpose for learning.

Integrated Literacy

Standards support one another, which is why the questions and tasks for each text selection weave together all facets of literacy: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language development.

Standards Coverage

End-of-year need to be experienced again and again to be mastered. The routines—Prepare to Read, Build Insight, Analyze and Interpret, Study Language and Craft, and Share Ideas—provide students with multiples opportunities to develop and demonstrate mastery.

Patterns

The routines repeat for each text selection. The Take a Minute! task introduces students to the text's genre and its specific features. The first Performance Task is always writing and Speaking and Listening is always the focus of the second. What other patterns do you see?

Tasks Matter

The tasks, questions, and prompts for each text selection align with standards. They also scaffold and expand access to complex texts, building—rather than merely assessing—comprehension. They guide students through the text and support productive struggle.

Agency Engages

Students answer open-ended text-dependent questions, create Action Plans for small group and independent learning, research details from text selections they want to explore, and present to peers using tasks from the Share Ideas routine.

Collaboration Scaffolds

Collaboration helps learners make sense of tasks and texts, and it makes learning more memorable than sitting-and-getting. Ensure discussion is part of every lesson, by incorporating partner, triad, and small group work each day. Don't limit group work to Peer-Group Learning.

Resources Abound

Throughout your TE, you'll find "If... then..." scenarios. When they suggest additional resources, check *Realize! Hook & Inspire* builds background knowledge; videos from the *Writing & Research Center* deepen genre knowledge; *Learning Strategies* prepare students to collaborate.

Preparation Succeeds

Read the text selections. Discuss the questions and do the activities. Respond to Share Ideas, the Performance Tasks and the PBA. As you read, discuss, and write, you'll experience the arc of learning, consider the pacing, and plan the best ways to engage your students.

