

Five Reasons

TO TEACH FOR PROFICIENCY

1 Ability to communicate:
Teaching for proficiency focuses on using the target language in real-world contexts. It's a shift away from learning grammar for grammar's sake.

Communicating with authentic language helps students see that learning a language develops valuable skills that they can use beyond the classroom.

2 Grammar & vocabulary in context:
Teaching for proficiency encourages educators to teach grammar and vocabulary in context and not in isolation. Teaching grammar and vocabulary this way helps students see the language as a form of communication, not just a list of rules or words to memorize.

3 Real-world knowledge:
Authentic resources allow students to use language the way it is naturally spoken outside of the classroom. These activities help learners use language as a vehicle to share and gain knowledge, whether they are communicating in the interpretive, interpersonal, or presentational mode.

4 Clear learning targets:
Essential questions and unit goals, Can-do statements, and rubrics help demystify students' goals and help learners self-reflect on their progress. Rubrics let students see what is appropriate for their proficiency level so they can start stretching themselves to reach the next level.

5 Success in the target language:
Engaging activities and tasks using authentic resources at the right proficiency level encourage students to want to use the target language. Once students get a taste of being able to successfully understand and be understood in another language, it will motivate them to keep learning.

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