

Some Big Essentials

- Celebrate strengths.
- Value all students' language and culture.
- Set clear and high expectations (reading, writing, content, behaviors) for *all* learners.
- Seek to develop independent, self-directed learners.
- Plan with the end in mind.
- Use a whole-part-whole teaching approach.
- Strive to make everything you teach for an authentic purpose and genuine audience.
- Demonstrate your own thinking process; share yourself as a reader and writer; be explicit.
- Teach it first; label it later.
- Have more scaffolded conversations with students, and give more time to guided, meaningful conversations—peer, small group, whole class.
- Check for understanding before, during, and after instruction.
- Provide sufficient background (through immersion, turn-and-talk).
- Speak to and behave toward students respectfully (employ more oral language and storytelling; encourage risk taking).
- Be efficient with your time.
- Teach for high-level comprehension, right from the start.
- Make joy central to teaching and learning.

See Contents for full listing of essentials.