

Anchor Activities

Anchor activities are engaging, ongoing assignments that tie to the content and instruction which students can work on independently for any length of time. The purpose of anchor activities is to provide meaningful work for those students who finish an assignment or project. They also can be used as morning work, or to free up the classroom teacher to work with other groups of students. They can be used in any subject or can be interdisciplinary, and tiered to meet the needs of different students. They work best when expectations are clear and the tasks are taught and practiced. Students should be held accountable for completing a task and for their behavior while working on a task.

Ideas for Anchor Activities:

- Create an advertisement or book jacket for a book or other book extension project
- Define, illustrate, and make connections to vocabulary words
- Journal writing
- Math problem of the day
- Work on a long term, independent interest project
- Selected web sites on the internet
- Create a game or book for a unit of study
- Open-ended questions
- Read and summarize a *Time for Kids* current events article
- Learning centers
- Logic puzzles
- Select a real-world writing assignment from the Writing Bingo board.*

*For writing bingo and other anchor activity ideas consult the following resource, available in the PACE department at Derry Village School:

Tomlinson, C. (2003). *Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, (ASCD).