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With my grant I had requested materials to “flip” my classroom. My experiment was not a true version since I knew many of my students would not be able to watch videos from home so I modified. The idea behind this way of conducting class was to allow students to move at their own pace and practice the concepts and skills they were lacking.

Each section began with a pre-assessment which helped the student to determine the path that was needed for mastery. The student selected the video and activities he needed to complete to foster understanding. I as the teacher had already loaded into the Google Classroom the pre-assessment, the videos, the activities, and a post assessment. This pre-loading allowed me to work with groups and individuals to increase understanding.

The results of the experiment were good in many ways. One is most students took ownership of the learning. Another the students were moving at a pace they were comfortable with. When a student forgot a step instead of waiting for me they could go back and watch a segment of the video. As the teacher, I was able to spend more time with individual students and address needs as they arose. Also when the student took the post assessment and was not happy with the results, they could do a “do over,” with a bit different set of instructions. Over all this type of class tended to function well.

The draw backs which I saw was the students which lacked the discipline to follow the “flipped” protocol floundered. What I think I could have done differently was to front load the material for these students either with a mini lesson in person with me. And/or provide a check list with dates as a guide for these as I call them my reluctant learner.

There are improvements I plan to implement in the coming year. One is to create an overview video so the student know what the section is about and what success looks like. As the students go through the assignments they will have a checklist of the tasks as well as the success criteria. A once a week teacher check in with every student will be required. More of the videos will be of my creation. The tasks will be more varied and will require the students to go deeper in their thinking. Plus I am going to “gamify” much of my lessons, encouraging students to be more engaged.

Over all I am thankful to have the opportunity to try this in my classroom. With a few tweaks this will help all students to be successful. I am grateful for the Foundations willingness to allow teachers to be creative in the classroom.

***I am glad I had the opportunity to try this last year before we let out in March, since this is the direction we are heading in this fall.