**Reflection on INTASC 1: Making Content Meaningful**

The ability to make content meaningful to students is crucial to their understanding of basic concepts. Through the use of varying teaching methods, teachers can keep their students interested in the material; repetitive strategies will cause students to lose interest in the subject matter, and will likely lead to poor performance. The first INTASC principle exists to ensure that educators have a deep understanding of the content they will be teaching, and that educators are capable of creating lessons and classroom experiences that will make the material taught in class meaningful to all students. Planning a variety of learning experiences includes much more than different lessons; the lessons need to differ not only in content, but in the exercises students undertake to learn content.

Teachers are expected to be knowledgeable of the subject they will be teaching, but their knowledge should not be limited to the material they will be teaching the students. Students ask questions in every class period, and questions asked by students are unpredictable. Because teachers are unable to predict their students questions they must have subject knowledge that is greater than simply the curriculum material. The role of the teacher in the classroom is to facilitate student learning, whether it be through direct instruction or a constructivist student centered approach. In order to maintain the attention of students in the classroom, activities must frequently differ. For example, although reading may be required for a portion of the lesson, the inclusion of group discussion, silent reading, graphic organizers, and whole class discussion can break up the routine exercise of reading. Using different instructional methods in the classroom can have incredible benefits. Students that are continuously using the same strategies in the classroom will quickly dislike the class, and may also begin to dislike the subject. The ability to use different instruction can prevent students from labeling school as a routine activity.