**Reflection on INTASC 4: Instructional Strategies / Problem Solving**

While various methods of teaching exist (direct instruction, cooperative learning, etc..) an instructor should be able and willing to use different techniques when the course calls for them. A teacher cannot rely on simply using direct instruction in the classroom; because students learn in different ways, and students are often incapable of sitting through long lectures, other methods of teaching must also be present. A teacher may find direct instruction to be the easiest way to maintain classroom control, but students need to practice various methods of learning. Teachers should vary their teaching style; teachers can do this by putting students as the focus of the classroom. For example, if students are learning difficult material, an instructor may play students in groups so they may work together. By working together in groups the students will be able to learn from each other. Ideas will pass through the group and discussion will be facilitated through varying opinions. If a classroom were to be purely based around direct instruction these interactions would never occur. Students would not be able to learn from each other, and unique ideas from out students would never be shared. Literature circles could be used as a way to vary teaching methods. Students will find themselves in control of the classroom as they pick the literature they wish to read, and have discussions about the things they find important. If the classroom was led by the instructor at all times the students would not be motivated to learn, and they would not have an opportunity to make sure their opinions are heard. INTASC 4 is instrumental in facilitating our students' learning. Varying instruction keeps the classroom fun and exciting, but also allows students to periodically have control over what is to be discussed and learned. While students cannot run the classroom at all times, breaking away from the traditional method of direct instruction will benefit the students and allow the instructor to work as a facilitator of student discussion.