

English 3D: Building Engagement & Relevance



Like most published curriculum, English 3D does have its limitations. Most frequently, teachers who strictly adhere to the content and scripted routines cite a lack of meaningfully engaging topics as well as needed work to get students “bought in” to being in an ELD class in the first place. ELLMA’s long term hope is to develop an OUSD-centric, engaging curriculum, however at this moment we recognize English 3D as the best resource we have available to us for many ELD courses. The guidance below is collected from veteran teachers using English 3D and intended to make the curriculum work best for your students.

Common Frustration	Suggestion	Description / Resources
Students are not motivated or interested in being in an ELD class and don’t see how the class is helpful to them.	Build awareness around the “why” behind the class	Before diving into the English 3D Program, use the “Unit Zero” materials to help ground students in the purpose for the course, their own linguistic assets, and purpose for developing academic English. It’s critical for the teacher to frame the class as an opportunity and not any sort of remedial space.
	Facilitate student goal setting	Empower your students by sharing how this class can help them to develop their language skills which they can transfer to other classes and outside of school. You can help students to set goals for themselves while helping to hold each other accountable. The ELL Snapshots can be a valuable resource for this work and can be found on the ELL Progress Monitoring dashboard .
	Engage and enlist parents in supporting their student’s learning	Empower families by informing them about the purpose of this specific class and their child’s goals. This can help to keep the students engaged and motivated to do their best.
Curriculum feels dull and repetitive to students and teachers.	Add your own flavor to the curriculum	Many elements of English 3D are somewhat scripted, and the program elements repeat. As you become familiar, think through the script and how you can modify it to be more authentic and responsive to your students needs and interests. You might also consider how you can supplement with related learning experiences that will increase energy and engagement.
	Make the curriculum relevant to students	Bring in other engaging and relevant texts while following the routines and structures of English 3D. Think about what you and your students are passionate about -- what controversial topics would lead to rich classroom discussions and writing. This will keep the class current and fresh without losing the focus on language development.
Too much time spent writing in workbook (aka “portfolio”) when students could be interacting	Incorporate a variety of engagement strategies	The class can easily become mundane if you only ask students to complete work in the notebook. While this might work well for some students to appreciate routine, it might turn off others. Instead have students create art, posters, digital presentations.
	Get students out of their seats	Having students move around is always a great idea! Incorporate gallery walks, group work, presentations, four corners, or musical shares. There are many ways to get students moving and talking.