Instructional Strategy: Learning/Knowledge Maps

Explanation of Strategy:

Learning Maps are visual tools that represent the relationships between key concepts in a subject area. They are graphical depictions that connect main ideas, subtopics, and supporting details in a structured, hierarchical way. They show how concepts build upon each other, helping students organize and structure their understanding of the material.

Purpose of Strategy:

This strategy helps students visualize connections between ideas, making complex content more understandable.
It enhances retention by organizing information visually, learning maps aid in long-term retention and recall of concepts.
It also encourages deep learning and supports critical thinking by encouraging students to explore how different ideas relate and integrate. Students engage actively in the process of mapping out knowledge, promoting student-centered learning.

Explanation of How to Teach the Strategy:

- Start by explaining what learning maps are and how they can be used to organize and understand information.
- Demonstrate how to create a learning map for a specific topic. Show how to identify key concepts, establish relationships between them, and arrange them in a logical structure. (can be done with class or premade with major points/concepts)
- Begin with a basic concept or topic and build out a learning map step by step. As students become familiar with the process, introduce more complex ideas.
- Allow students to work together in small groups to create learning maps, reinforcing teamwork and collaborative learning.
- Use digital tools (like Canva) or paper-based methods for creating learning maps.
- After initial creation, encourage students to revisit their maps, refine connections, and discuss with peers to ensure a comprehensive understanding.

Explanation of How Strategy is Used by Students:

- **Organizing Knowledge**: Students use learning maps to summarize and organize new material as they learn. They can visually represent how information fits together and identify knowledge gaps.
- **Active Engagement**: By creating and interacting with the learning map, students actively engage in the learning process rather than passively receiving information.
- **Collaborative Learning**: In group work, students can exchange ideas and refine their understanding by discussing and revising their maps.
- **Reflecting on Learning**: Students use maps as tools to reflect on their learning progress, seeing how their knowledge has expanded and how different ideas are interrelated.
- **Review Tool**: Students refer back to their learning maps when studying, as they serve as condensed and organized representations of the subject matter.

Accessibility Supports: • Visual (color coded, shapes)	**Possible Tech Integration:** • Canva • Slides+	**Link to Checklist**

Summary of Research:

Related effect size 0.56

1. *Explicit Instruction: A Review of the Literature.* This article, published in 2015 in the journal *Review of Educational Research*, provides a comprehensive review of the research on explicit instruction. The authors conclude that explicit instruction is an effective teaching strategy that can be used to improve student learning in a variety of subject areas.
2. *The Impact of Explicit Instruction on Student Achievement.* This article, published in 2016 in the journal Educational Psychology Review, summarizes the findings of a meta-analysis of studies on the impact of explicit instruction on student achievement. The authors found that explicit instruction has a positive impact on student achievement, with an average effect size of 0.59.

UDL Alignment:

Multiple Means of Representation

- **Visual Representation**: Learning maps provide a clear, visual organization of concepts and their relationships, catering to visual learners and those who benefit from seeing content in a structured format.
- **Accessible Content**: The map's structure helps make abstract or complex ideas more concrete.
- **Multimodal Support**: This supports students who may struggle with text-heavy content and helps those with different sensory preferences.

Multiple Means of Action and Expression

- Collaborative Learning
- Variety of Outputs

Multiple Means of Engagement (How students are motivated to learn)

- Active Learning
- Choice and Autonomy
- Self-Assessment and Reflection