

Ineffective Strategies that Can Contribute to Underachievement in Gifted Students

INSTRUCTIONAL DECISIONS

These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Rote assignments that the student describes as uninteresting, repetitive, or without purpose
- Classes covering material that the student has mastered
- Assignment format which provides no opportunities for creative expression
- Emphasis on low-level thinking
- Instruction that makes no provision for individual learning styles and differences
- Use of sarcasm or ridicule in class, which the gifted student resents
- Lack of opportunity to use skills advanced above grade level
- Emphasis on class lecture with no opportunity for individual investigations
- Instructors who react as threatened by complex questions
- Failure to provide opportunities for leadership
- A rigid attendance policy denying credit for absences
- A rigid tardy policy penalizing the student for lateness
- Unreasonable grading policy that is objective or does not allow student to discuss errors
- Requirement that all students demonstrate a step-by-step process, even if the student is a holistic learner
- Not having a tutor or means for assistance with difficult subject matter

CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL DIFFERENCES

These factors include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of clarity over the objectives of the assignments
- Standards that are very different—what an “A” grade means
- Inefficient skills to manage demands of the assignments
- Silence in class discussions due to different class expectations in other countries or cultures
- Not looking at the teacher due to patterns of inculcated respect for authority in other cultures
- Behavior or non-verbal gestures in class that have different connotations in the culture of the student
- Concepts of time that are carried over from the diverse culture that are not as specific
- Diverse concepts of ability or talent carried over from what is valued in the culture of the student
- Diverse concepts of giftedness or leadership carried over from the culture of the student