

Strategy: most difficult first

An initial step towards more formal compacting, this is most effective with skill-based assignments.

- With a new assignment, decide which items represent the most difficult examples of the entire task. They may appear sequentially, near the end of the assignment, or from different sections of the assignment.
- Choose no more than five examples.
- Write the assignment on the board and highlight the Most Difficult First (MDF) part.
- Those students that attempt the MDF and answer all parts correctly do not have to complete the rest of the assignment.
- Those who fail to meet the criteria should complete the whole assignment

This strategy permits more capable students to demonstrate mastery more quickly and allows them to move onto more enrichment activities.