

Table 2

For Both Individualized and Competitive Instructional Approaches

Advantages

- Fosters self-accountability and evaluation, and working at own pace.
- Demonstrates the importance of effective time management and organizational skills.
- Demonstrates the linkage between planning and effort in relationship to developing a quality solution.
- Allows for creativity and how to link it to developing high quality solutions in a non-structured environment.
- Increases engaged learning and time-on-task.
- Allows use of “strengths management” by allowing the student to apply their best personal assets and learning style to reach an effective solution.
- Builds self-confidence if a high quality solution is achieved.
- Encourages working hard to be successful and therefore creating a sense of accomplishment through personal effort.

Disadvantages

- Students may become frustrated because of a lack of structure and time management skills.
- Does not have reference points in order to utilize the thinking of others regarding multiple ways to solve a problem and develop a solution.
- Can result in a lack of appreciation for the need to develop group process and team building skills.
- Some students may not do well in an unstructured self-directed learning environment.
- The teacher may have difficulty structuring the classroom learning time because students have different learning paces.
- Students may stop trying because success seems beyond their knowledge and skill levels.