



## Advanced Academics Differentiation Record Form

As required by Virginia education legislation and our local plan, we share updates each quarter about how instruction was extended and differentiated for high-ability learners. At Oakridge, teachers and staff are committed to ensuring our students learn and grow. As students demonstrate readiness, we use resources and strategies to push their thinking beyond acquisition and fluency to generalization and adaptation. In quarter 1, we have implemented a range of resources and strategies to promote critical and creative thinking among our students. These initiatives provide them with challenging and rigorous content. We are dedicated to nurturing and encouraging our students' exceptional abilities. By offering differentiated learning experiences, we can help every child realize their full potential.

Our efforts to differentiate instruction include:

- Collaborative planning with the Advanced Academics Coach
- Implementation of Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies and Project Zero Thinking Routines
- Use of resources for rigor and curriculum designed for high-ability learners

In the report below, you'll find a summary of some of the resources and approaches we used to encourage critical and creative thinking, provide rigorous content, and extend learning goals.

### Differentiation for 5th Grade Students in the 1st Quarter

Subject Area:	Resources for Rigor	Critical and Creative Thinking Strategies	Thinking Routines	Additional Extensions
Math	M3: At the Mall with Algebra A3: Awesome Advanced Activities	Habits of Mind		Groundworks

**Description:** Project M3: Mentoring Mathematical Minds is a series of curriculum units developed to motivate and challenge mathematically talented students. The Project M3 curriculum features explorations of simulated or real-life problems so students can actively solve them in the same ways that practicing mathematicians do. In *M3: At the Mall with Algebra*, students represented and analyzed mathematical situations using algebraic symbols. They came to understand the basic notions of equality and equivalent expressions through informal problem-solving. They learned how variables are used to represent change in quantities and also to represent a specific unknown in an equation. Students learned how to make algebra more relevant and relatable to their everyday experiences. Habits of Mind (HOM), a social-emotional learning framework, was integrated throughout math workshop instruction. HOM extends concepts related to a "growth mindset," empowering students to think creatively and critically. Students applied HOM to strengthen their problem-solving skills in math. Through *Groundworks*, students were able to extend their understanding of concepts taught in class or before fifth grade through collaborative problem solving.

ELA		Frayer Model R.A.F.T. Encapsulation Depth & Complexity Plus, Minus, Interesting Analogies	Creative Question Starts Values, Identities, Actions Color, Symbol, Image	CCT Choice Board
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**Description:** APS' Office of Advanced Academics and Talent Development has created Critical and Creative Thinking choice boards and unit launches for our ELA units. Unit launches spark curiosity, activate prior knowledge, foster student inquiry and discourse, consider multiple perspectives, and cultivate a collaborative culture. This quarter, your student engaged in the Project Zero Thinking Routines Creative Question Starts and Values, Identities, Actions. The Creative Question Starts routine provides practice in developing questions that provoke thinking and inquiry. Brainstorming such questions helps students explore the complexity, depth, and multidimensionality of a topic, in this case, Early Civilizations. Values, Identities, Actions routine also helps students move beyond surface-level interpretation by connecting a poem's ideas to what characters or speakers believe, who they are, and what they choose to do. It deepens engagement by encouraging students to consider how a poem's values and identities influence meaningful actions in the real world.

Students were also introduced to CCT choice boards relating to their CKLA units on Early American Civilizations and Poetry. The choice boards are designed to increase voice and choice and deepen understanding of grade-level content. Some of the strategies we utilized this quarter are: Analogies, Plus-Minus-Interesting, Role-Audience-Format-Topic, Encapsulation, Fluency-Flexibility-Originality-Elaboration, Color-Symbol-Image, and Depth & Complexity. Analogies allow students to make connections at a more sophisticated level. Plus-Minus-Interesting is a critical thinking tool used to generate discussion about the positives, negatives, and interesting ideas associated with a particular concept. Role-Audience-Format-Topic provides students with opportunities for developing products for designated audiences, based on specific topics, in a defined format, from a particular point of view. Fluency-Flexibility-Originality-Elaboration is a creative thinking strategy that promotes divergent thinking and advanced problem-solving skills. Color-Symbol-Image is a Project Zero Thinking Routine that helps students deepen their understanding of a poem by translating its themes and emotions into vivid visual metaphors, making abstract ideas more concrete and memorable. Depth & Complexity icons are visual prompts designed to help students go beyond surface-level understanding of a concept and enhance their critical thinking.

Science		Mind Mapping		Teacher Created Ext... CCT Choice Board
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**Description:** In preparation for their Energy and Matter unit assessments, students created mind maps to literally map the concepts they learned about and strengthen their understanding of the material. Throughout the Energy and Matter units, students completed collaborative extension activities to deepen their understanding of the concepts taught, particularly in the Matter unit. Throughout the Energy and Matter units, students had opportunities to choose from a variety of extension activities on their choice boards.

Social Studies		Depth & Complexity		Teacher Created Ext...
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**Description:** This quarter allowed for rich connections between our ELA and Social Studies units. Students explored early American civilizations, pre-history & the Fertile Crescent, and Mesoamerica using the Depth and complexity icons. Depth & Complexity icons are visual prompts designed to help students go beyond surface-level understanding of a concept and enhance their critical thinking. In social studies, we focused on the parallel, multiple perspectives, over time, big idea, trends, patterns, and unanswered questions icons to guide and extend their content knowledge.