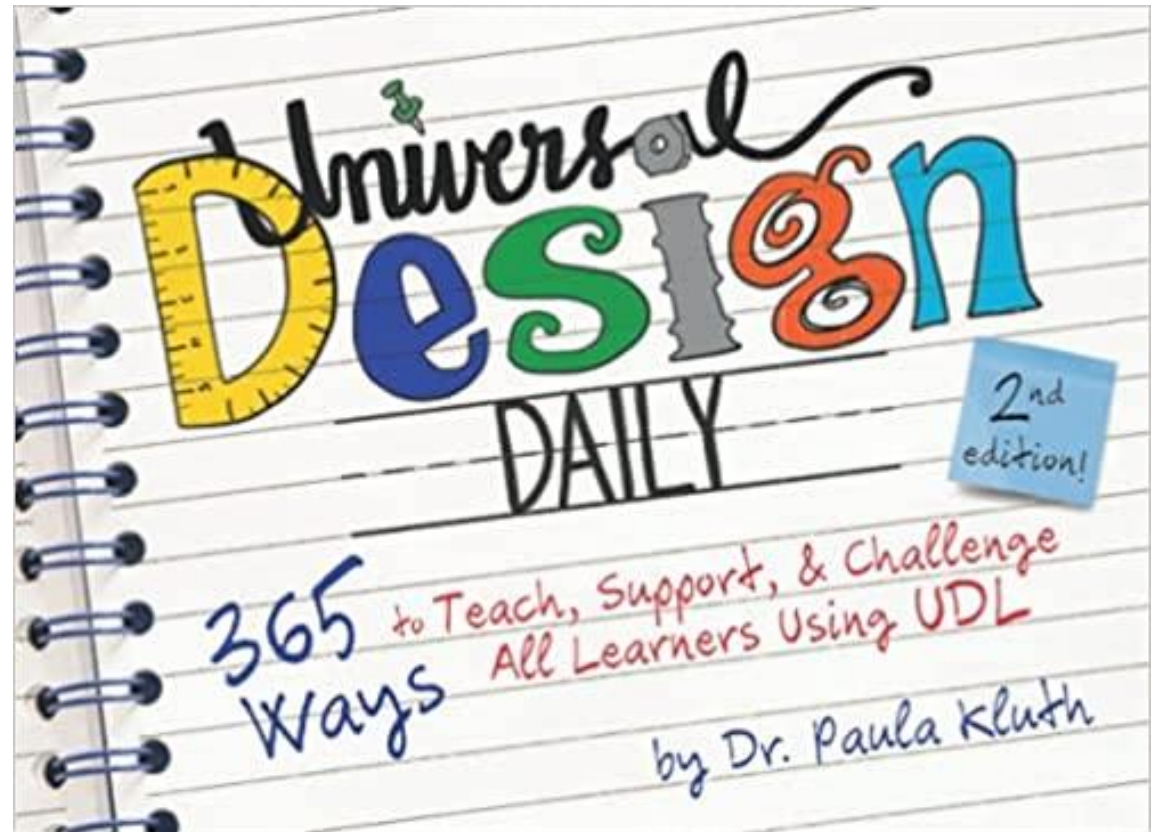


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★ Vary Demands & Resources to Optimize Challenge



# Day 146 **Drop Anchor**

In most UDL classrooms, teachers are constantly looking for ways to buy some time with small groups or individual students. One of the easiest ways to do this is to implement an anchor activity.

Anchor activities are tasks that students can work on independently or at least without teacher support. These activities may be assigned when students walk into the classroom, or they can be implemented for some period during a class to give teachers time to engage in individual assessments, or meet with small groups. In essence, anchor activities free teachers from their work at the helm of the classroom, allowing them to designate class time for more personalized interactions with learners.

True anchor activities should always be meaningful and allow students to deepen their understanding of learning standards. They should also allow each learner to work at a different pace and on different content (if necessary or desired), which is why they are so helpful in the UDL classroom. The only requirements of anchor activities are that they must be (a) worthy of a student's time, (b) appropriate to his or her abilities, and (c) easy to enter and exit so that transitions are short.

Examples of anchor activities include

- ★ *silent or partner reading;*
- ★ *independent or partner writing;*
- ★ *skill practice with peers or with the use of apps/websites;*
- ★ *project-based instruction with students working alone, with partners, or in small groups; and*
- ★ *whole-class peer tutoring (e.g., review material).*