



Making real world connections is one way to facilitate learning that is meaningful to students and prepares them for their professional lives outside of school. When teachers move beyond textbook or curricular examples and connect content learned in the classroom to real-life people, places and events, students are able to see a greater relevance to their learning. Real World Connections are used to help students see that learning is not confined to the school, allows them to apply knowledge and skills in real world situations, and personalizes learning to increase and sustain student engagement.

- Determine the objective for the lesson and research what the most relevant real world connection(s) would be to make the objective resonate with students.
- Plan the lesson, incorporating the real world connection, and gather all the necessary resources needed.
- Present the connection(s) to students, or support students to discover the connection(s), during the course of the lesson.
- Encourage students to share out and incorporate their experiences and/or prior knowledge into the learning.
- Act as a facilitator and help make connections between shared ideas, interests and experiences from student



Additional Tools

Project Based Learning

An instructional approach built upon authentic learning activities designed to answer a question or solve a problem, and generally reflect the types of learning and work people do in the everyday world outside the classroom.

Guest Speaker

A speaker who is invited to share firsthand knowledge on a topic that aligns with the learning objective.

For more strategies and/or resources, visit houstonisd.org/EffectivePractices



QUICK TIPS

Magazines, newspaper and other social media are great resources to link learning to the real world. Telling stories from the teacher's own life can demonstrate a lesson earned and/or help students think about their own meaningful connection to the content. Consider providing choices whenever possible as students will often engage more with activities with which they have a real connection.