

Comparison of Traditional and Progressive Education Models

	Traditional (Classical)	Progressive (Constructionist)
Teacher's Role	Academic instructor, source of knowledge, authority figure	Facilitator, counselor, mentor
Instruction	Direct instruction by teacher in <u>homogeneous</u> groups	Self-directed learning, discovery learning, and cooperative work in <u>heterogeneous</u> groups
Student's Role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn what the teacher teaches • focus on intellectual, factual learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discover what they learn • also act as peer mediators, tutors and counselors • focus on learning, feelings, and opinions
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focus on academic areas with facts, ideas, skills, methods • based on research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance academic and social concerns • concerned with student's "higher order thinking" • often based on unproven theories
Reading	Phonics	Whole-language
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct Instruction of math concepts • prefers "drill and skill" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interactive and discovery learning – "fuzzy" math • rejects memorization
Social Studies	Focus on American heritage, national sovereignty, and cross-cultural studies	Focus on diversity, multiculturalism, and global citizenship
Outcomes	Emphasis on academic skills in traditional core areas / measured objectively	Emphasis on the "whole child" that blends psychological, social and cultural well-being of the child / measured subjectively
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • periodic use of objective <u>achievement</u> tests • students receive grades they earn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use of <u>assessment</u> tests • the 4 P's – posters, portfolios, projects, PowerPoint • grades inflated so all students succeed
Character Development	Citizenship and self-control	Relativism and self-esteem
Equality	Equal opportunity	Equal outcome