

**Tips for Contextualizing Instruction (CTX)**  
(while raising Complex Thinking)

1. State the goal of the lesson.
  - a. The goal of this lesson is to....
2. Briefly explain why it is important to learn this goal.
  - a. It is important to know how to do this because...
3. Activate prior knowledge relevant to the lesson.
  - a. Ask questions, model thinking, show pictures, etc. to try and get the children to react/remember/respond to you.
  - b. Search for a way to link students' comments back to the lesson's goal.
4. Continue with the lesson. Allow opportunities for students to practice. While they practice, provide responsive assistance and make personal connections. Note: This requires active listening and responsiveness.
5. End the lesson by assessing whether students understood the goal of the lesson. Typically, this is done by asking open-ended questions.
  - a. How is what we did similar/different to what \_\_\_\_\_ did? (Reference a student's personal story or comment)
  - b. What could you do differently next time if faced with a similar situation?
  - c. How do you define \_\_\_\_\_? In \_\_\_\_\_'s example, was it defined in this way?