

Modifications and Assessments

In order to assist teachers with issues of accountability, the following is a list of student modifications and assessments used throughout Creating Character.

Modifications

The following modifications provide good practices for teachers to use with students with special needs:

- *Experiential Activities* — These activities allow students to experience the concept being taught, thus increasing comprehension.
- *Graphic Organizers* — Webs, maps, and charts help organize concepts and information in order to improve student comprehension and critical thinking skills.
- *Groups/Pairs* — Placing students in pairs or groups encourages cooperative learning, especially if groups are assembled with a heterogeneous mix of abilities.
- *Large Class Discussions* — Discussions allow students to share ideas and viewpoints in order to encourage them to think critically about the concepts they are learning.
- *Multimedia* — Videos, DVDs and online exhibits provide visual and tactile experiences that assist student comprehension and improve technology skills.
- *Student Choice* — Students become much more invested in their learning when they are empowered by the ability to choose their own independent practice and extension activities.

Assessments

The following assessments can be used to help teachers with issues of accountability:

- *Viewing Guides* — These guides encourage students to stay on task and think critically about the testimonies of the survivors.
- *Journal Entry and/or Written Reflection* — These writing assignments encourage students to internalize the concepts and information they have learned.
- *Independent Practice* — These agree/disagree prompts require students to engage with and evaluate the concepts they have learned.
- *Quote Reflections* — Analyzing quotes is especially good for teaching comprehension and interpretation skills. They also allow students to compare other viewpoints on the concepts they have learned.
- *Personal Treasure Box* — A concluding lesson activity allows students to synthesize the concepts they have learned. The Treasure Box allows students to internalize what they have learned by relating to each concept personally.