Tic-tac-toe

Tic-tac-toe, also known as Think-tac-toe, is a differentiation tool that offers collection of activities from which students can choose to do to demonstrate their understanding. It is presented in the form of a nine square grid similar to a tic-tac-toe board and students may be expected to complete from one to "three in a row". The activities vary in content, process, and product and can be tailored to address different levels of student readiness, interests, and learning styles. The center square may be left open for the student to select an activity of their own. Tic-tac-toe activities may be given to every student in the class, higher ability students for extension activities, or lower students for review and practice. Involvement in this strategy encourages independent learning. Teachers should check in with students periodically and require students to keep a log of their progress.

In place of lengthy activities, the tic-tac-toe board may also be used with shorter, open-ended questions posed at varying levels of Blooms Taxonomy.

Example Tic-tac-toe board for reviewing a math unit:

Write clear directions for performing the math computation skills from this unit	Solve two of the five challenge problems	Create a math rap or rhyme that will help someone remember a concept from this unit
Create three word problems from information learned in this unit	Student Choice Activity (with teacher approval)	Define the unit's vocabulary words with sketches or drawings
Complete the review problems in the text book	Develop a game using skills learned in this unit	Identify four ways the concepts in this unit are used in the real world

For additional sample Tic-tac-toe boards, please see the following resources, available in the PACE department at Derry Village School.

Coil, C. (2004). *Standards-Based Activities and Assessments for the Differentiated Classroom.* Pieces of Learning.

Winebrenner. S. (2001). *Teaching Gifted Kids in the Regular Classroom.* Minneapolis, MN: Free Spirit Publishing Inc.

Novel Think-Tac-Toe

Another choice board which is a variation of the Tic-tac-toe board is called Novel Think-Tac-Toe developed by Carol Ann Tomlinson. In addition to offering nine choice activities, Novel Think-Tac-Toe is a differentiation strategy designed for students to explore character, setting, and theme in novels of their choice. Two versions of the grid are used to make this a tiered strategy in order to address students at different readiness levels. To view samples of this choice board, please consult the following book, available in the PACE department at Derry Village School.

Tomlinson, C. (2003). *Fulfilling the Promise of the Differentiated Classroom.* Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, (ASCD).