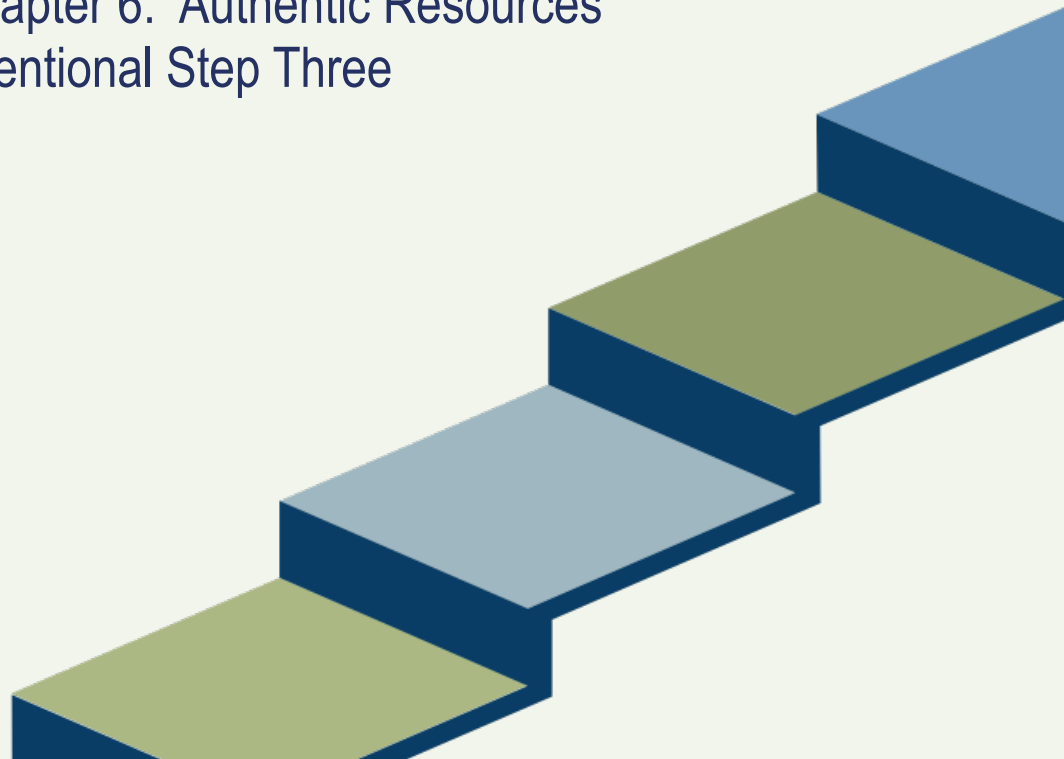


Intentional Instructional Moves

Strategic Steps to
Accelerate Student
Learning

Companion Guide

Chapter 6: Authentic Resources
Intentional Step Three



Chapter 6

Intentional Step Three: Incorporate a Variety of Reading Resources

The teacher would like to offer authentic resources to supplement student learning, but they don't have a large classroom budget, and the school literacy resources are limited. Access to quality resources can be a real challenge for teachers, especially those who work at high-needs schools.

Nicole Amato, a 10th-grade English teacher in Chicago, has experienced this firsthand. At her previous school, there weren't enough novels in the classroom library to allow students to take them home to read. She insists that, "No teacher should have to worry about not being able to provide the most basic resources for their students" (2015, para. 5). We know that access to quality resources helps improve student outcomes, so what can we do to fill this need?

Strategy 1: Create a Virtual Reading Resource

Teachers can supplement course content by including a variety of reading resources in the classroom, including print, audio, and digital. Teachers might also create a virtual reading resource by scanning documents and/or adding digital resources to their library. That way, students can access these resources even when they're not in the classroom. Be sure to include a diverse range of authors, topics, and media formats that appeal to students' interests and abilities. Teachers can use the Literacy Reflection Questions above to help curate their reading resources. See the "Classroom Library Analysis" handout for tips on assessing current classroom reading materials.

Incorporating virtual reading resources allows students to have multiple exposures to the content, reinforcing their acquisition, memory, and retention of the information. As discussed

earlier, these frequent exposures and spaced practice lead to better learning outcomes and have an effect size of .60 (Weinstein, 2018). If students are particularly interested in the reading materials, they can also cultivate motivation, self-discipline, and develop a sense of purpose.