



Scaffolding¹

UDL CHECKPOINT 3.3: [Guide information processing and visualization](#) — Support the meaning-making process through models, scaffolds, and feedback.

What is it?

Scaffolding is a flexible teaching strategy that breaks down a complex task into smaller, manageable steps. It provides students with guidance and support, gradually reducing assistance as they develop skills and confidence. Depending on the task and students' needs, scaffolding can take various forms, such as checklists, rubrics, peer reviews, pre-reading quizzes, and note-taking templates.

Why do it?

- **Enhanced Learning:** Scaffolding helps students grasp challenging concepts by providing clear steps and resources.
- **Motivation:** Scaffolding can boost student confidence and motivation as they see progress.
- **Skill Development:** Scaffolding supports the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and research skills.
- **Inclusivity:** Scaffolding accommodates diverse learning needs and levels of preparedness.

How can I apply it?

Here are some suggestions for implementing scaffolding in your practice.

1. **Analyze the Task:** Identify how the task aligns with the course outcomes, the goal of the task, and potential challenges with completing the task.
2. **Break it Down:** Divide the task into smaller steps create a clear sequence.
3. **Offer Resources:** Provide learning materials such as reading, templates, or examples to guide students.
4. **Provide Mastery-Oriented Feedback:** Give students actionable feedback focused on improvement in the early stages of the task to steer students in the right direction.
 - a. What has the student done well?
 - b. Where can the student improve?
 - c. How can the student improve?
 - d. What should the student do next time?
5. **Build Independence:** Reduce guidance over time, encouraging self-reliance.
6. **Encourage Peer Collaboration:** Encourage peer interactions for problem-solving and learning.
7. **Specify Assessment Criteria:** Clarify how the task will be evaluated.
8. **Promote Reflection:** Encourage students to engage in critical self-reflection on their learning process.

¹ Developed using AI and various resources.