

“Yes, but...” – Responding to Predictable Concerns

Advocates for *Understanding by Design* often encounter predictable concerns (“yes, but...”) from colleagues. The following exercise is designed to help you prepare thoughtful responses to likely objections.

Part 1 - Select one of the following concerns (or add one of your own) and generate ideas for responding to that concern. Record your ideas in the box below.

Part 2 - Meet with others who have selected the same concern and share responses.

I (we) would like to teach and assess for understanding, but...

1. We are expected to teach to state/district standards and benchmarks.
2. This approach takes too much time. I (we) have too much content to cover.
3. We are being held accountable for student performance on superficial state tests.
4. I am a “skills” teacher, and students need to master the ‘basics’ first.

I (we) would like to design curriculum using the UbD framework, but...

5. This approach is too demanding. We couldn’t possibly do this for everything we teach.
6. It’s not my job to develop curriculum. Besides, we already have a textbook.
7. I don’t know how to do this kind of design work.
8. We already do this.
9. This approach takes away a teacher’s freedom/creativity.
10. Other: _____

Your response: _____

