



Does My Class Have Rigor?



A quick guide to understanding academic rigor

Across Tennessee and Hamblen County, school leaders can be heard calling for more academic rigor in our classrooms. This does not mean longer assignments or more problems. But what does rigor look like? This quick guide can be used as you plan lessons and activities to make sure you are giving your students the challenge and depth of knowledge they need to be successful. Before presenting your lesson, ask yourself the following questions:

Does my lesson focus on a learning outcome rather than just consuming the information or material?

NOT Rigorous	Rigorous
Students will read chapter 4 in <u>To Kill A Mockingbird</u> .	Students will look for and discuss ways in which the point of view affects the meaning of text using chapter 4 in <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u> .

Have I planned questions throughout the lesson that will require students to think deeply about the material?

NOT Rigorous	Rigorous
"What did you get for problem number 12?"	"Take us through the steps of solving the expression and show us what you found to be the answer."

Does my lesson account for every instructional minute from bell to bell to be utilized?

NOT Rigorous	Rigorous
"If you finish early, find something to do that won't bother others around you."	"If you finish early, write in your journal about how what we learned today affects our everyday life."

Does my assessment piece or assignment ask students to perform tasks that require thinking based on the learning objective and not irrelevant busy work that does not aid in the learning process?

NOT Rigorous	Rigorous
word searches color sheets copying notes word for word copying definitions a low ratio of word problems to computation problems mastery style worksheets	vocabulary activities from Vocabulary's CODE reorganizing information into a graphic organizer a high ratio of word problems to basic computation problems labs, task rotations, graphic organizers, non-linguistic representations, identify similarities and differences

For more information about academic rigor or help adapting your lessons to be more rigorous, please feel free to email me at jgreene@hcboe.net