

Summary of the Differences between Levels 2 and 3

1. Level 2 pacing is much faster than Level 3. In Level 3 good teaching requires substantial reteaching and practice in both skills and concepts. This is done much less in Level 2.
2. The teacher needs to make fewer explicit connections at higher levels. In Level 2 we often outline solutions to problems and expect students to be competent at the symbol manipulation and computation on their own. In Level 3 we are much less likely to do this.
3. All students need a variety of activities, changes of pace, and opportunities to work by themselves, with partners, and in small groups. However, lectures are efficient ways of developing ideas in Level 2 and short lectures will be used more in Level 2 than in Level 3.
4. Level 2 students will study and do activities simply to learn the material. Level 3 students are much more likely to require extrinsic motivation.
5. In Level 2 it is easier to tell if students understand. They are more likely to tell us if they don't. We must work much harder to determine understanding on the part of Level 3 students.
6. Level 2 students can learn on their own. They benefit from reading the solutions of others. They will struggle with problems and construct their own understanding. They need to be taught to use a textbook and learn from it. Level 3 students vary widely in their ability in this area, both because of motivational issues and because of readiness issues.
7. Level 2 assignments and tests are longer and more difficult than in Level 3. We need to teach skills, concepts, and broad multi-step problems at all levels. But we will provide more scaffolding for Level 3 students.
8. In Level 2 we teach to the top half of the class. In Level 3 we teach to the middle.