



Read how effectiveness relates to The Four Stages of Teaching.



All teachers can possibly go through the four stages of teaching in their professional career, yet not all teachers will go through all four stages. Some people who view teaching as a job are simply **SURVIVING**. They teach for the paycheck and vacation benefits. They find busywork for the students to do, have no classroom management or lesson plans, and blame the demographics of the students if the students are not learning. They come each day to put in time, have no idea how to produce intended or expected results, and just survive.

Teachers who make a difference know how to make an IMPACT. These teachers have learned how to implement the three characteristics of effective teaching:

1. Managing a classroom
2. Teaching for mastery
3. Having high expectations for their students

As a result, they are able to PRODUCE student learning, growth, and achievement, and thus, make an impact on the lives of their students. They also make an impact on their own lives; they do this by creating a plan for their own success. They have a classroom management plan.

Recognize where you are in the **Four Stages of Teaching** and work on a plan to maximize your effectiveness.

Stage 1: Fantasy

Many neophyte teachers have the naïve belief that to be a successful teacher, all they need to do is relate and be a friend to their students. They rarely talk about standards, assessment, or student achievement. Entertaining students with activities is their concept of teaching.

Stage 2: Survival

Teachers in the survival stage have not developed instructional skills as explained in unit D in **THE First Days of School**. They spend their time looking for busywork for the students to do, such as completing worksheets, watching videos, and doing quiet reading—anything to keep the students quiet. Student learning and achievement is not their goal; they teach because it's a job and the pay check is their reason for teaching.

Stage 3: Mastery

Teachers who know how to achieve student success employ effective practices. These teachers know how to manage their classroom, they teach for mastery, and they have high expectations for their students. Effective teachers strive for mastery by reading professionally and going to professional meetings. Student learning is their mission and student achievement is their goal of teaching.



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Stage 4: Impact

Effective teachers make a difference in the lives of their students. These are the teachers whom students come back years later to thank for affecting their lives. To make an impact on your students, you need to use effective teaching practices. A student learns only when the teacher has made an appreciable impact on a student's life. When you reach this stage, you have gone beyond mastery: You have arrived as an effective teacher.

You were hired to impact lives. You were hired not so much to teach third grade, history, or physical education as to influence lives. Touch the life of a student, and you will have a student who will learn history, physical education, even science and math, clean the erasers, staple all the papers, and turn cartwheels to please you.

When you reach the impact stage, you will live fantasy—and fulfill your dream of making a difference in the lives of your students and being the effective teacher you were meant to be.