

What Is Independent? (Independent Learning)

UNDERSTAND (Why?)

We teach students what it means to be independent because it empowers them to take charge of their learning, make informed decisions, and solve problems on their own.

PREPARE (Students)

Today we are going to talk about what it means to be independent. Let's all say the word independent. Being independent in our work helps us to problem solve, build confidence, and make informed decisions. We are going to learn how to be independent because there will be many times you are asked to work independently, and it is important to know what it looks like and sounds like to be independent when working.

TEACH (Explicitly)

Being independent means you can do things on your own without always needing help from others. When you are independent, it shows that you can make appropriate choices, solve problems, and take care of your responsibilities, like finishing your work or organizing your materials, all by yourself.

Let's talk about times when you already show independence. I want you all to think of a moment when you were independent, solved a problem, or completed a task on your own. Turn and talk to your partner and share that with them. (Call on students to share. You may choose to write their responses on chart paper.)

In this class, we will have independent work time. There will be times when you have must-do work, meaning you should finish it before you do any work on your own. When you do this work independently, you will gather the materials needed, complete the work following the directions, and turn it in, all by yourself. If you have questions as you are working, you can make a note so you remember to ask later, but you will work through as much as you can on your own, being independent.

Sometimes you will choose how you engage in your learning. You might choose to read independently, write independently, or listen to reading. It is important to remember that when you are independent, you can complete the work all by yourself. That means you will follow the steps to be successful independently.

It is important to learn to be independent with work because it helps us to problem solve and make sense of our learning. It gives us an opportunity to apply what we have learned and practice on our own, knowing if we become stuck or have questions, we have the support of our teacher and peers.

SUPPORT (Pivots)

- You may wish to have younger students write and illustrate a sentence about something they can do independently. For example, *I am independent when I _____*. Older students may wish to role-play or write a story about a time they were independent. Their work can then be made into a class book if desired.
- This lesson can be extended to add what to do if you get “stuck” or don’t know what to do during independent work time.