

Excerpt from Real Engagement by Allison Zmuda and Robyn Jackson

COMPLIANT, DUTIFUL LEARNER	ENGAGED LEARNER
Follows oral and/or written directions with minimal prompting	Follows oral and/or written directions with minimal prompting but may pursue an alternative approach to personalize the experience
Completes explicit procedures and requirements in a timely manner	Pursues own train of thought regardless of task at hand or feedback from staff which may make it difficult to finish in a timely manner
Intently focuses on task completion to finish the assignment	Focuses on the learning and wants to talk without prompting or consideration for those around them
Participates in group activities and discussion when prompted	Reticent to participate in group activities and discussion because still mulling over ideas, information OR actively immersed in the previous task
Responds to straightforward questions but needs scaffolding to pursue a more complex question	May be bored or unmotivated to respond to straightforward questions but are fascinated by questions that require teasing out ambiguity and complexity or questions that are personally interesting and relevant
Seeks approval, credit, and/or high marks because of effort, quantity, or adherence to directions	Seeks recognition for the thoughtfulness of the work or originality of the work even if it isn't complete or adheres to the directions
Plays it safe by electing to follow known procedures, explore familiar topics, utilize tools that they already have fluency with, and dismisses alternative points of view or approaches	Chooses to take risks by exploring something new, attempts to solve a problem in a novel way, and considers an alternative point of view
Completes work with no expectation for personal relevance, connection, or interest	Seeks to make the work interesting or disengage
Accepts the credibility or validity of what an authority says at face value (i.e. teacher, online source, expert)	Constantly questions both text and people to better understand an issue, topic, or problem
Waits patiently for assistance or decides it's not worth the effort to ask for help in the first place because it goes beyond the scope of the directions	Demands immediate assistance or attention based on their deep connection to the topic, question, or task at hand