

INQUIRY-BASED METHODS

Research indicates that developing expertise requires learning subject matter as well as the thinking strategies needed to use and inquire more deeply into concepts. For example, Flick (1995) noted that explicit teaching can produce major gains in student achievement on selected kinds of instructional objectives, but "the high levels of teacher supervision implied by explicit teaching models may not foster the kinds of thinking required for instruction with complex and ill-structured tasks" (p. 17). Accordingly, SPS utilizes inquiry-based teaching methods to develop critical thinking skills in our students while teaching specific content knowledge.