Every classroom is composed of diverse learners with various needs that must be addressed properly by the educators. The principle of individual differences highlighted the necessity on ensuring that the materials and strategies that will be employed by teachers are suitable to the need of the students.

However, teachers nowadays experience or encountered problems such as the inability of the students to focus in the lesson or and the failure to achieve the competencies set by the department. These problems are often brought by the inappropriate method of teaching employed by the teachers which are not motivating in the part of the students.

It is said by an anonymous that students in this era are demanding, and this is the reality that we need to accept. Since there is a big transformation in terms of technology, educators must also transform the classroom in the modern setting, thus ensuring meaningful learning.

Engaging learners actively in the teaching-learning process is one of the ways on how to ensure meaningful learning. According to John Dewey, students will learn better if they will be involved actively in different learning activities. The context of hands-on-minds-on should be guaranteed by the teachers; teachers should not only stimulate the students’ mind to think but also encourage them to participate in the learning activities.

Moreover, the more senses are used in learning, the more and better the learning outcome will be. Students can learn concept as they seen or heard, but they will be able to learn
more and better if they will see and hear. Thus, the integration of the five senses in the learning process is significant, this is also the aspect we need to consider in choosing activities and materials in teaching diverse learners.

The use of student-centered activities in teaching will allow students to use their five senses in learning rather than employing the traditional teacher-centered approach. With this, teachers will just be the facilitator of learning and let the students work to acquire essential knowledge. In this situation students will feel free in doing such task especially if the environment is non-threatening.

Discovery Learning, Collaborative Learning and even Peer Teaching are the methods that we can used in order to promote the aforementioned principles. It is important to prepare activities that will develop and increase the interaction of learners to their classmates. This will not only promote learner-centered environment but will provide a sense of interdependence and cooperation.

With the appropriate and suitable methods, approaches and instructional materials and activities, surely the students of the 21st century will be able achieve meaningful learning.

References: