

# OER Accessibility

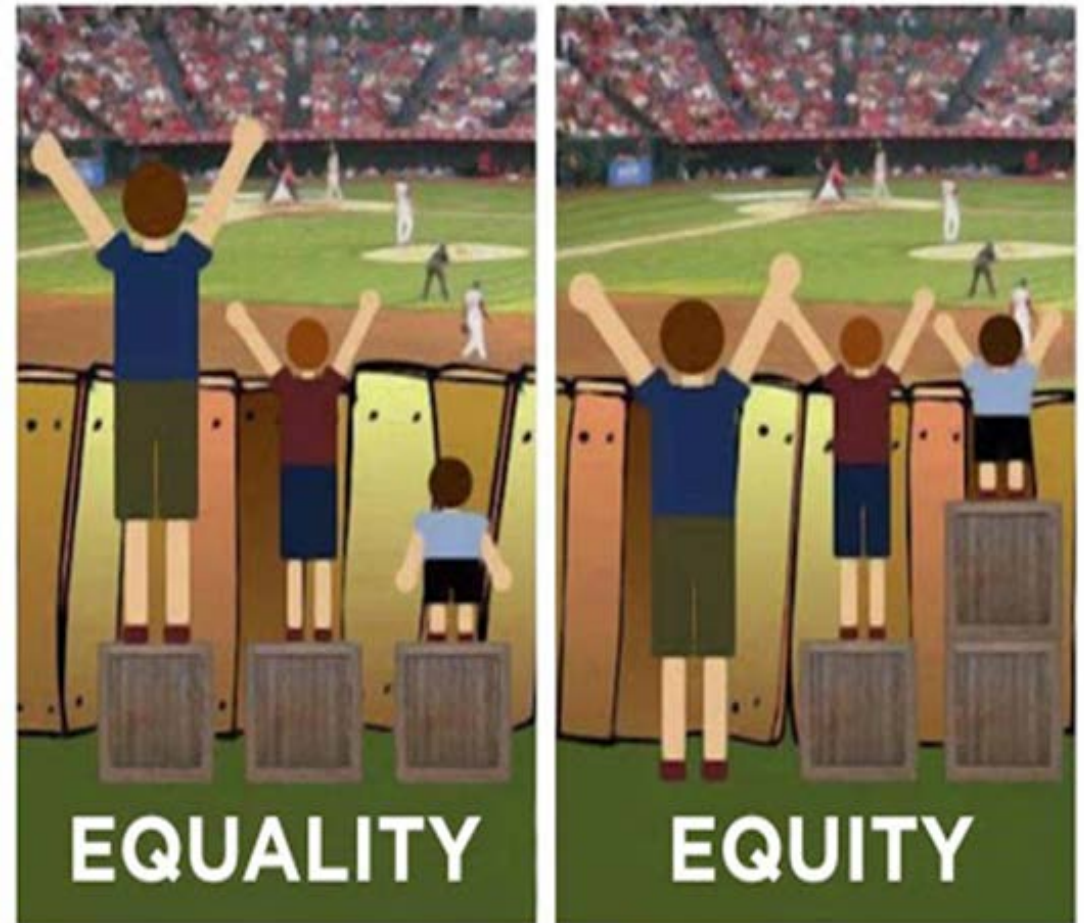
Amy Mason, National Federation of the Blind

Emily Medina, UMUC

Karen Rege, Harford Community College

# Accommodations vs. Universal Design for Learning

- By ***proactively*** using UDL principles, there is less need to make ***reactive*** accommodations for students
- If we focus on equity instead of equality by using universal design for learning (UDL) principles, we ensure all students have access



# What is Universal Design?

In the 1970's, Ronald Mace coined the term Universal Design...

... which is the design of products and environments to be usable by *all* people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

- This tool eliminates barriers to the act of opening a door for all people. Because it is universally designed, it automatically promotes accessibility.
- If you eliminate barriers in the learning environment, you will increase student engagement and achievement.



# The Basic Idea of UDL

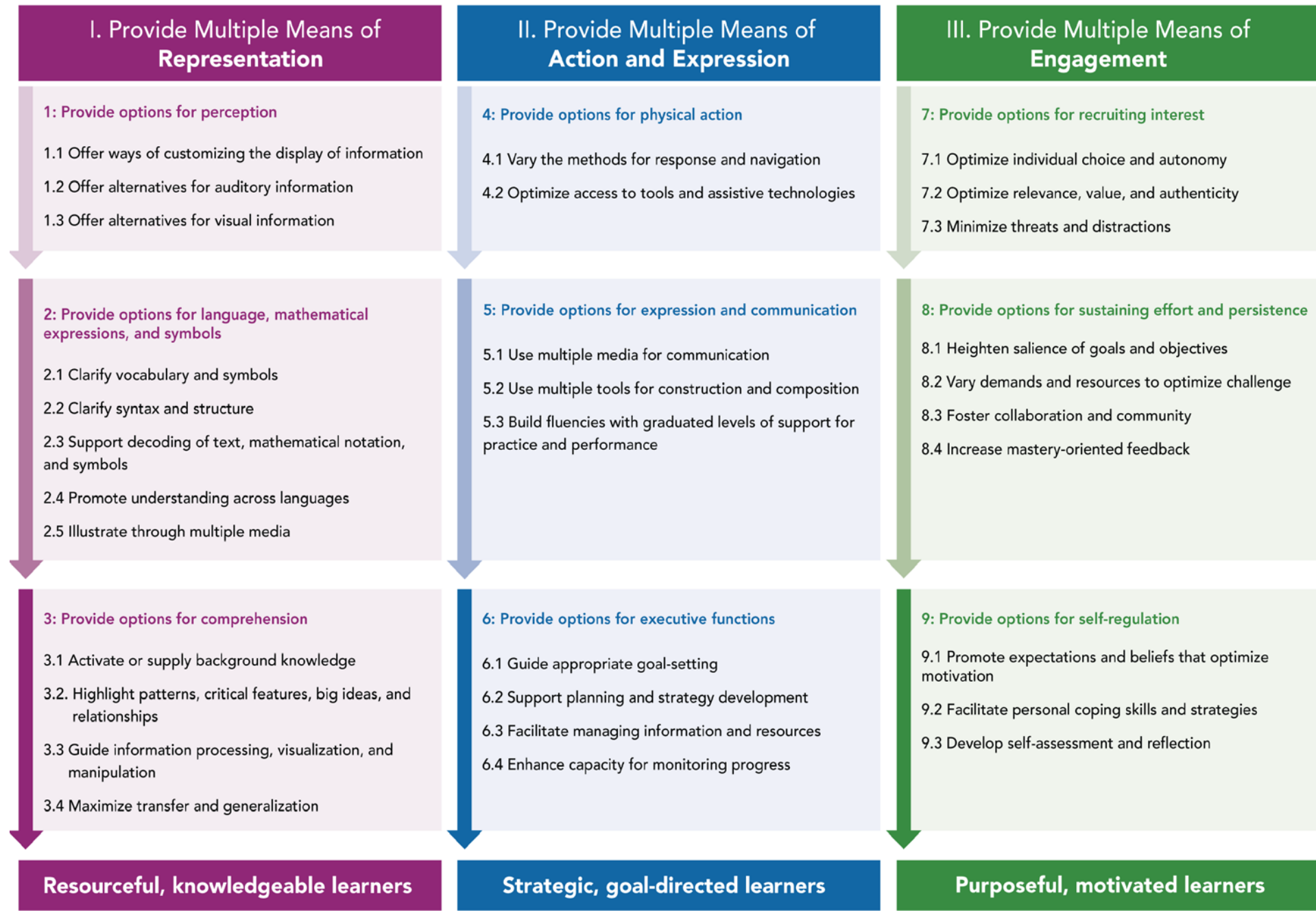
UDL is simply ....

- *understanding* the concept you want to teach
- *representing* that concept in different ways
- while *engaging* the students and
- encouraging them to *express* their knowledge in different ways.

UDL is an approach to teaching that **plans for** expected **variability** among learners by providing lessons that are flexible and accessible.

e.g. Offering the OER in ePub *and* PDF *and* MOBI

# Universal Design for Learning Guidelines



# Accessibility Checklist

- WebAIM Section 508 Checklist  
<https://webaim.org/standards/508/checklist>

Questions?