Gradual Release of Responsibility model for instruction, teachers must carefully scaffold instruction for student success.

There are four phases within this model:

1. **The Focus Lesson** – Sets the purpose through modeling or inquiry so students are provided with information about the ways in which a skilled reader, writer or thinker processes information. This is typically done through a think-aloud so that students have a model from which to work.

2. **Guided Instruction** – Cues, prompts and questions are carefully planned by teachers to guide groups of students who share common instructional needs. This is an ideal time to differentiate instruction.

3. **Collaborative Learning** – Students consolidate their thinking with peers by negotiating, discussing ideas and information or engaging in inquiry with others about what they have learned during focus lessons and guided instruction. This is not the time to introduce new information. Rather it is a time to apply learning to new situations or review previous knowledge.

4. **Independent Practice** – Not the same as “Do it yourself school.” The ultimate goal of independent learning is that students independently apply information, ideas, content, skills and strategies in unique situations. Independent learning is both a method of learning and a characteristic of learners.