

Tips on Student Engagement

"A thousand teachers, a thousand methods." --- Chinese proverb

Student engagement is an important piece of student success. The following strategies and tips can help increase student engagement levels in your classes.

Show Enthusiasm

The first and most important thing is to show your excitement and enthusiasm about the content, which is an effective strategy to get students' attention and interests. Let students see the enthusiasm you have for the subject and your love of teaching. If students see you are excited about the content and teaching, they will feel it and feed off of it. On the other hand, just imagine, if students see you are not excited, how can you expect them to be motivated and interested?

Make A Good Impression On the First Day of Class

The way you present yourself and the course content is critical for creating a positive interaction with your students. You should spend some time carefully thinking about how to effectively introduce the course as well as communicate your expectations to your students. Instead of reading from your syllabus, it's suggested that you provide an appointment for your students to interact with your course syllabus.

Change Things Around

Lecturing is an effective teaching method, when used properly. After every 10-15 minutes of lecturing, engage your students by using some interactive learning activity to deepen their understanding of newly learned content. Some effective learning activities can be: case studies, class discussion, one-minute writing, and brainstorming.

Review, Connect, and Conclude

At the beginning of each class, spend time reviewing the content that has been taught in the class to get students refreshed and ready for new course material.

When presenting new content, show students the valuable connections between the new knowledge and students' prior knowledge or past experiences. Research shows that prior knowledge plays an important role in helping students understand and organize new information.

At the end of the class, have students actively reflect on what they have learned today as well as how the knowledge connects to real-world applications. Common techniques for establishing this connection are case studies and problem-based learning.

Use PowerPoint Effectively

PowerPoint is a popular tool for lecturing. However, it's easy to bore students when it is ineffectively used. When using PowerPoint, don't put too many details in the slides and directly read from them. Use diagrams, tables, or flowcharts to explain complex or difficult concepts.

Encourage Students to Share Their Opinions

Students will be more motivated and engaged when instructors encourage them to share their opinions and interpretations about the course content. Instructor should let students know that their expertise, opinions and ideas are highly valued. Students who sit in class passively receiving information are more likely to feel bored and unmotivated.

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