



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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10 PRINCIPLES TO ENHANCE STUDENT LEARNING

CONNECT

Build rapport with your students. Students who feel connected to you are much more willing to devote time and energy to your class.

ENGAGE

Arouse student interest in your class' topics. Remember: There is no learning without engagement. Begin your class with a bang: A provocative quotation or statistic, an anecdote, a paradox, a problem, a news story. Then trigger engagement throughout your session with audio-visual materials including art works or film clips, or with simulations.

FOCUS

Formulate clear objectives for each class session and present your students with a well-organized agenda. Students crave clarity, substance, and organization.

VARY

Present information in multiple ways. Your pedagogical approach might include lectures, discussions, visuals, problem solving, short readings, and other activities.

INCLUDE

Involve all students in classroom activities. Effective methods for encouraging participation include brainstorming, small group work, debates, surveys, and role playing exercises.

INVOLVE

Foster active participation. After all, students learn most when they are actively engaged in inquiry, rather than passive recipients of information.

You can get students involved in various ways, such as case studies and activities emphasizing inquiry and problem solving. Asking questions is another way to engage students, but note that there are effective and ineffective ways to ask questions.

Avoid "guess what I'm thinking" questions, in which you have an answer in mind. Also avoid rhetorical questions (Does anyone have any questions?) and questions with yes or no answers. Rather than relying on questions that emphasize recall, use questions that involve higher order thinking:

- Prediction: What will happen next?
- Justification: What evidence led you to conclude that...?
- Rationale: What is the reason...?
- Generalization: What can you generalize...?

SHARE

To give students ownership of the course material, share your grading rubrics and your learning strategies and tips with them.

ALIGN

Align your assignments and exams with your learning objectives.

ASSESS

Monitor student learning throughout the semester and adapt your teaching based on your findings.

REFLECT

Encourage students to reflect on their own reasoning.