Effective Tools and Strategies for Keeping Students Engaged

FCSTAT Professional Development Conference 2015
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Introductions
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Provides FREE instructional resources

- Education and Training
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Human Services

http://cte.sfasu.edu/
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Brief Overview of Educational Excellence Grant Goals

- Provide free instructional resources for Texas teachers
- Focus on the needs of new teachers
- Assist with resources that will meet the need of special populations and non-traditional students
Today’s Session Topics

Participants will engage in the following:

- Navigating the SIRDC website
- Promoting a welcoming classroom for students to thrive in
- Strategies for high classroom engagement
- Tips and effective tools for engaging students
- What have you used in the classroom?
Anticipatory Activity
Benefits of Engagement

According to multiple research studies, engaged students

- Are less likely to drop out of school
- Earn higher standardized test scores
- Have better social skills
Engage Students from the Start

Techniques may include:

- Assessing student’s prior knowledge and experience
- Creating a classroom built with team-building skills, cooperation and interdependence
- Creating an immediate interest in the subject area
How to Actively Engage Students

Techniques may include:

- Affective learning
- Class discussion
- Collaborative learning
- Full-class learning
- Independence learning
- Peer teaching
- Question prompting
- Skill development
Culturally Responsive Teaching

As an educator, it is important to create daily opportunities when students’ lives and experiences are co-mingled into the learning process.
Creating Engaging Lessons

- Connections between data and appropriate resources
- Establishing consistent process
- Following the Scope and Sequence
- Instructional resources to meet each individual’s needs
- Understanding instructional strategies
- Using various forms of assessment
Practice Effective Questioning

- Ask for explanations
- Ask questions that relate concepts, ideas and opinions
- Encourage students to predict
- Encourage students to provide descriptions
- Seek out the evidence
Plan to Teach Bell to Bell
Multiple Intelligences

How to Make a Cube From Poster Board
by Deborah Woodward
Instructional Uses of Graphic Organizers

- analyze interrelationships between ideas
- can be used as a test alternate
- comprehension of the information
- determine and extract key ideas and information
- Introduce new information
- outline topics or chapters
Building Empathy

- Personalizing global issues
- Inspirational quote or guiding questions
- Pair-share activities
Games and Humor

- can be a venue for helping students decompress
- can be used to help build social-emotional learning (SEL) skills
- contributes to both personal and group development
- play builds communication and social skills
- teaches self-awareness
Creating a Welcoming Challenging Classroom

- Cultivate diversity
- Set high expectations for all learners
- Support student voice and collaboration
Project-based Learning

Type 1 Diabetes Investigation

Mathematical Applications in Human Services
Practicum in Human Services
12 Project-based Learning Activities in Culinary Arts

http://www.edutopia.org/blog/culinary-arts-integration-pbl-food-sarah-henderson-lori-holm
Project Ideas
Technology

- Challenge students
- Encourage creativity
- Enhance lessons
- Prepare for 21st Century learning skills
- Promote rigor
- Utilize the latest technology
Technology-based Resources

Strategies and Tips for BYOT in the Classroom
One of 1,000+ TED Talks

New ideas every weekday

TED.com
Making a Cube

Making a Cube from a Poster Board

Name ____________________ Period __________ Date __________

Fold for flap

8 3/4”

Box lid

8 3/4”

7 INCHES 7 INCHES 7 INCHES 7 INCHES

3 3/4”

Do not cut out until you have completed project!
After cutting out, tape sides and bottom

Four Areas of Development: Preschool to School-Age
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Your Turn!

- Teach each other a new skill, recipe, song or hands-on activity and share what they have learned from their partner.

- Tap into creativity and music - Use familiar tunes to create a song based on the content being learned today. In teams of three, have each person write down two words that come to mind regarding the subject. Then create a song using all six words to the tune of your choosing.
References and Resources

Images:
- Ms. Molina, East Central High School, San Antonio, Texas (slide 10)
- Photos obtained through a license with Shutterstock™.com.

Books:

Websites:
- Edutopia
  Engaged Teaching: "Do Now" Activities for Your Lessons.
References and Resources

Websites:

• Edutopia
Creating a Welcoming and Intellectually Challenging Classroom.

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• Edutopia
Eight Play-Based Strategies to Engage Youth in Learning.

• Edutopia
New Study: Engage Kids with 7X the Effect.
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Teach Using the Lived Experiences of Your Students
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• Lexia Learning White Paper
Empowering Teacher Effectiveness: Five Key Factors for Success.

• Nondestructive Testing (NDT) Education Resource Center
Practicing Effective Questioning.
https://www.nde-ed.org/TeachingResources/ClassroomTips/Effective_QUESTIONING.htm

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