

Topic – How to engage students in Classroom?

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Abstract :-

As an educator, a primary goal is to keep your students engaged. This, however, can be challenging due to the sheer amount of distractions students face combined with the swath of material that must be covered. It can be tough to hone in on what exactly you can do to keep students engaged, motivated, and on course to meet both their own and your objectives.

Students of all ages will undoubtedly suffer from a drop-off in engagement levels, it's natural. Refocusing attention and keeping engagement levels as high as possible for as long a period as possible will be one of the crucial factors in helping students better understand and enjoy your classes and lectures

To help you raise the level of engagement we have put together a series of best practices that aim to enthrall students and improve retention levels. We have, likewise, included a series of resources that you can quickly download and use so that you need not spend any extra time scouring the internet for useful content.

Key Words :-

Start with a warm-up , See smartphones and tech as tool , Regularly test students , Use self-paced work , Brainstorming , Arrange group discussions , Run reflections , Make use of “dead time” , Make students part of the process Get creative.

Objectives :-

- Connect what you're teaching to real life. ...
- Use students' interests and fascinations. ...
- Give students choices. ...
- Hook their interest with fun transitions. ...
- Teach students self-monitoring skills.

* Start with a warm-up

No matter what time of the day it happens to be (though we all know mornings are the toughest), jumping right into a lesson or lecture is rarely easy. Students take time to settle in and focus on what is going on. Kicking off with a warm-up activity can help to get everyone engaged and focused from the very start.

Icebreakers of any kind can be the perfect way of doing this as they are time efficient while also offering you the opportunity to ask any type of question. Perhaps you want to ask something about the students, their day, their lives, or their passions. You can also enquire about what they want to direct their attention to in future lessons, what they thought about the last lesson, or what one thing they found most interesting about this subject.

* See technology as a tool, not as a distraction

Technology can be a nightmare for educators if it's not leveraged in the right way. If you find that smartphones are distracting your students, maybe it's time to incorporate them as part of your lesson plan. While pen and paper may have been the go-to way of note-taking for decades, many students find it easier and more efficient to type things on their laptops or tablet. Some may even record lessons so they won't miss a single word.

Technology is a key component in education and it will only become more engrained in the culture of education as advancements in edtech and other related software continue. Making apps, software, and online tools a part of both your classes and lectures, as well as a resource for students to access will not only help to improve their in-class experience but also their ability to study after the fact. Students of every age engage with technology more than ever before, so it only makes sense that if you want to improve engagement levels technology must be made use of.

* Regularly test students

No, don't worry we are not saying you need to set a mid-term style paper every other week. What we are suggesting is more quick hitter assessment quizzes. Not just asking students more than if they understand what is going on, but actively quizzing them to see if they have been paying attention and they are retaining the information. Running a quick two-question quiz following a particular complex problem or subject can help you see if the message is getting across, or if you need to go back and clarify something that is causing confusion.

Knowledge tests don't have to be boring or stressful for your students. Instead of a paper and pen and test, try using an interactive way of quizzing students that will be quick and easy to set up and run.

* Promote self-assessment and self-paced learning

Engage your students through self-assessment activities such as formative assessments. Teachers and lecturers don't need to be the only people to provide students with feedback, they can also assess their abilities.

Likewise, self-paced learning can be a way to help remove a common point of frustration for many students; **time**. Trying to understand complex topics or remember a series of facts and figures can become incredibly irritating when asked to do so in a certain amount of time. Fewer frustrated students mean a more engaged and enthusiastic audience.

* Brainstorm together

Brainstorming will help students to think creatively and collaborate with their peers. Asking them to come up with their ideas and thoughts on a subject can be a good way to check their understanding of a subject. Thus they not only are required to think creatively but also critically. Thinking in this more complex manner will help to engage students as it will require them to focus and take their time over their responses.

Brainstorming can also be an optimal way to promote a collaborative work and study environment. Offering feedback rather than criticism on others' ideas will help to promote a sense of group effort and develop feedback and teamwork skills. Collaborating and taking the time to listen to a range of other ideas and suggestions will also help to promote a more engaging learning environment.



* Spark discussion in groups

Making room for discussion in the classroom can be a great way to engage your students in the classroom. Using open-ended and a way to poll students to collect opinions can spark a lively debate. Enabling your students to discuss something they have an opinion about, or are even passionate about will encourage them to participate in the class.

Working in groups will also remove the fear level that comes with standing up in front of a larger group and expressing one's thoughts. This can be daunting for many but doing so as part of a smaller group is a much more manageable task. A willing group member can speak up on behalf of the group further eliminating the fear of public speaking for many. Students who would not normally feel comfortable partaking in his type of activity can thus become more active participants resulting in a more engaged group as a whole.

* **Hold a reflection session**

Engage your students differently with a reflection session. A reflection is an important tool for learning and improving. Students can look back and see what they have learned, where they have excelled, what they still need to improve upon, and what their ultimate goal is.

Offering students the opportunity to do this can help them regain focus and a sense of perspective. In turn, this can lead to higher levels of engagement as they will understand better the context for each lesson as well as the work that is required of them.

* **Make use of “dead time”**

It is completely natural that students will lose engagement or concentration during the course of both a day, a class, and a lecture. Their ability to concentrate and focus will only last so long. Naturally enough we are then confronted with the question ‘What then do we do during this “dead time”?’

Use it to your advantage and allow them a few moments to reset and get that lack of concentration out of their system. For many simply turning to talk to their friends for a few minutes will help to refocus while others would benefit from a bathroom break or a quick blast of fresh air.

* **Gather student feedback**

The benefit of this is two-fold: students will be able to take a more active part in their education while you can better understand what triggers them, what they enjoy, and what they dislike about your classes. If students enjoy a particular way of teaching and they find it easier to retain information because of it then it is best you find out what specifically it is. If there is something that causes them to switch off and daydream you had better gather feedback as to what is causing it and why!

* **Sprinkle in some fun**

We mentioned before about giving students the chance to take a moment to reset before diving right back into the action. Adding in some fun and quirky elements can be a welcome way of doing this. Furthermore, it can be particularly difficult to engage students when tackling “boring” or difficult topics. However, you can help encourage engagement by creating fun activities that will make these activities more exciting.

* **Plenty of ways to make education more engaging**

So there we have it, 10 ways you can engage our students and make their experience more engaging and captivating. Thankfully there are plenty of tools, as well as these tips, that can help you increase engagement levels. Mentimeter has been proven to do just that so using our online presentation tool alongside the steps mentioned above will help to transform your classes.



When student engagement is going downhill, we often find ourselves reaching for the prop box. We pull out random videos, time-sucking resources, overly complex activities... anything to get and keep attention. But even these can't compete with our students' pen tricks, doodling, and discussions of what happened at recess. And there's a simple reason why:

Our students aren't engaged by *things*. They're engaged by *us*.

Give your students a say :- If you don't know how to engage your students, let them tell you! Give your students a say in classroom activity by:

- providing a choice of different activities (e.g. group work or solo)
- seeking student input for assessment design (e.g. students can choose a final product, provided it meets the criteria)
- periodic check-ins to monitor the pace of delivery (e.g. "do we need to go over this a bit more slowly or are we feeling pretty confident?").

Giving students a choice also fosters their sense of ownership over their learning. They'll move from passive consumers to active learners with a stake in classroom activity

Give your students moving :- If your students struggle to sit still for an entire lesson, get them moving. All that pent-up energy can be channeled into a learning activity that puts them on their feet. Try the following.

- Have students come to the front and brainstorm together on the whiteboard.
- Have students rotate through different stations around the room over the course of an activity.
- Have students split into groups or arrange themselves in different areas of the room.
- Take a stand: have students move to a particular area of the room to indicate their thoughts on an issue (e.g. "everyone who thinks x, move to the right side of the room; if you think y, stand on the left").

Movement works equally well to engage sluggish or weary students. A quick bit of physical activity will leave them more alert for the next phase of learning.

Ask good questions :- Ask good questions of your students and you'll drive rich, engaging discussions that are open to everyone.

Good questions should be:

- open-ended: to avoid "yes/no" answers
- equitable: open to answers of varying depth and complexity
- legitimate: asked because you want to hear students' thoughts and opinions, not because you're fishing for a correct answer. When students answer a question, engage with their response. Even if it's incorrect or misinformed, recognize their effort and use it to refine the question further (e.g. "you're on the right track, but could we also think about...").

Make Classes Interactive :-



Unless you are a truly fantastic presenter, your students could become bored very quickly when they're only hearing you talk. Involving your students in discussion is a time-honored method to keep attention levels up and manage a classroom effectively. One of the best ways to gauge your students' understanding is to **ask questions** or **let them ask questions**. Give the students a chance to give their opinion over debatable issues and encourage open dialogue. You should let your students be part of the class as much as possible. Interactivity is vital for struggling students and can be used to engage advanced students as well.

Creat Classroom Games :-



Everybody likes playing games of some sort. Whether at an elementary or higher education level, playing games is a classic method to activate the student's thoughts and engage them in the topic.

You can **create competitive games** in a class where students try to outshine each other in groups or as individuals. Engage students by asking them to be the quickest to come up with a list (e.g. Who can name three cities in Florida?) or be the first person to guess the name of an historical figure based on clues you provide

Mind-challenging games,

academic puzzles and even science toys (such as terrariums, specimen rocks and microscopes) and can also be incorporated into lessons to help with cognitive development. The novelty factor of games and objects is a good way to increase student engagement and often doesn't require much planning. As well as educational games, you can create some **quick fun games** to help children release energy and look forward to going to the next class. Some of the 40 examples from Christopher Olson are: Scrambled Eggs (observation), 20 Questions (guessing), Sparkle (spelling) and hot potato (luck).

Conclusion :-

In conclusion, classroom management is beneficial to the success of the students. What they learn and how much they learn lies in the balance, if effective classroom management is not in effect. Making sure that you state rules clearly and going through procedures daily helps minimize disruptions and chaos. Setting rewards system that focus on both effort and success encourages students to follow rules and promotes self-regulation, to help them to make better choices and be more productive.

Referances :-

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