


Center for Learning and Teaching Excellence




Teaching Tips

Keep Students' Attention in Lectures


A number of techniques can be used to keep students' attention focused and enhance learning. Here are suggestions to revitalize attention in lectures


 **Write a question:** Ask students to write down one to three questions about material just covered.




 **Send a Problem:** Each team member writes a review question on a note card and teammates write answers on the back. The cards are then passed to other teams for their answers.





 **Paired Discussion:** In three or four minutes, have pairs of students discuss something, such as summarize the class so far; react to a theory, concepts, or information presented; relate today's material to past learning.


 **Brainstorming:** Help students see what they know by recording all their ideas, recollections, etc.

 **Buzz Groups:** Give one or two prepared questions to groups of three to five students. Each group records their discussion and reports to the class.




 **Roundtable:** Students take turns writing on a single pad of paper, saying their ideas aloud as they write. Each tries to add to what has already been said.

 **Truth Statements:** Small groups decide on three things they know to be true about a particular issue. It is especially useful for examining assumptions about a new topic.

 **Visualization:** Choose (or get input from the class) on several principles or questions that can be illustrated visually. Groups of four to five students illustrate one on the board or large poster paper. Each group explains its illustration, followed by discussion.



 **Reaction sheet:** after presenting a controversial topic, get students to react to these questions:
What ideas do you question?
What ideas are new to you?
What ideas really hit home?

For other ideas, please visit these resources

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/intranet/committees/FacDevCom/guidebk/teachtip/adults-3.htm>

<http://www.oic.id.ucsb.edu/TA/tips/part.html>