

Keeping Students Engaged

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Activity

- Introductions
 - Name
 - Department
- What are you hoping to get out of this workshop?
- What types of challenges or issues have you encountered keeping students engaged?
- What are some solutions you tried?
Did they work?



Reflection

Goals of activity:

- Introverts vs. extroverts
- Mix up the classroom structure
- Put responsibility back on the students
- Set up an engaging environment → active learning
- Let students' needs be heard & allows students to share with others

Do you think this activity achieved these goals?

Encourage an open dialogue and reflection between you and your students.



PIE BREAK!

Get some refreshments and introduce yourself to someone new!



Objectives

- Offer opportunity to share pedagogical issues concerning student engagement and brainstorm solutions
- Provide tangible activities/methods to reset your classroom environment



Hitting the Reset Button

Midterm evaluation to get feedback

- Ways to do it
 - TABS/SPCI forms (<https://distance.fsu.edu/instructors/evaluating-courses-methods>)
 - Qualtrics survey
 - Informal response (anonymous or not)
- What it achieves
 - Opportunity to fine tune before actual evals
 - Gives you a heads up about any potential problems
 - Shows the students you are invested



Hitting the Reset Button

Try new activities

- Discussions, presentations, debates, role play, etc.
- Critical thinking exercises
 - Applying class topics into a discussion/activity
- Contemporary relevance
 - Using engaging materials like media, current events, pop culture
- Collaboratively working through class assignments, review sessions, etc.



Hitting the Reset Button

Change up the classroom dynamics

- Switch chairs around/or teaching position
- Continually vary class structure
 - Activity, lecture, discussion - mix and match!
- Student led classes and presentations



What about online classes?

- Get to know your students
 - Mandatory introductions → create comfortable and engaging learning environment
- Use technology to your advantage
 - Videos, discussion boards, blogs, twitter, etc.
- Provide weekly announcements
 - Be accessible/available/active!
- Add some humor



Wrap It Up

Things to keep in mind...

- Create a comfortable environment
 - Invite/ask questions, share experiences, remind them it's safe space
- Relate to their lives and their education
- Keep it simple and clear
 - Ask students to recap
- Review the syllabus → Reality check!
- Laugh at yourself and laugh with your students!



THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

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