

STRATEGIES TO MOTIVATE STUDENTS

A(1) Know how students learn

B(2) Assess, monitor, and report students learning



Keeping students motivated to learn day after day is a challenge all teachers face. Try using the hooks and engagement strategies below to motivate students to look forward to coming and participating in your class.

LESSON HOOKS

Just like a fishing hook is used to pull in a fish, teachers can begin their lesson with a hook to grab students' attention. Below is a list of techniques you can use to begin your lesson with this energy.

By having a hook each lesson, you establish a culture where students know they start learning as soon as they walk into your class.

START WITH A QUESTION

Ask a question about the new information students are about to learn in the lesson. The advantage of this is that it will tell you what students already know so you can focus more of the lesson on what information they still need to learn.

You might need to encourage students not to be afraid to make a mistake.

For example:

Grade-4 Science (Water cycle)
Before you begin your lesson, start a lesson by asking students the question, "Where does rainwater go after it rains? Give a few minutes for students to think about their answer."



START WITH A MISTAKE

Write down a false statement or incorrect sentence and ask students to identify the error and explain why it's wrong.

For example:

After explaining to students that "Adding the 3 interior angles of a triangle equals 190 degrees," then ask the students to explain why the statement is incorrect.



START WITH 3 REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1 question from the previous week's material
- 2 from the previous lesson's material

This will help students remember previous information and get them ready for new learning. This is proven method to build memory and will help your students prepare for future tests.





START WITH AN OBJECT

Use an object that is related to the topic to start the lesson. Use it to start a class discussion and build curiosity.

For example:

- Teaching about sound: Use a bell or instrument
- Teaching about plants: Use vegetables, plants, fruits
- Teaching Geometry Shapes: Use a ball, cardboard box, and/or children's toys

For example:

Grade 6, Math (Geometry)

Put three dimensional objects like a ball, a soda can or a roll of tape at the front. Ask students to measure area, volume and perimeter of the objects.



START WITH A PICTURE OR VIDEO

Show a picture related to a topic in your lesson and use it to start a discussion.

For example:

Grade 4 Science

When teaching about gravity, show a short video clip or show a picture of astronauts floating in outer space. Use these images to start a conversation about gravity. Why do people float in outer space but not on earth?



START WITH A BRAIN TEASER

Write down or say a quote, a joke, a story or a riddle related to what the students will learn in your lesson.

For example:

"A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying our air and giving fresh strength to our people."

-Franklin D. Roosevelt



CONNECT TO FUTURE CAREERS

If possible, share with the students how this lesson is going to help them in one specific area of their life. This will help students understand the value and usefulness of the topic.

Before a lesson on measurement, share with the students how adults measure things all the time in their professional lives. Mechanics measure air in our tires, chefs measure ingredients in our food, and builders measure dimensions when constructing a house.





KEEPING STUDENTS MOTIVATED IN CLASS

Children and young people, just like adults, can get tired or distracted during a lesson. This is normal. If you notice that many students in your class are unengaged or not paying attention, it might be time to change something. Below is a list of strategies you can use to keep students engaged and on track.

GUEST SPEAKER

Invite an interesting guest to the classroom to share their experiences. This could be a community member, another teacher, or a friend.



PASS THE BALL

Use a soft ball to have students answer questions.

Ask a question first then toss the ball to a student.

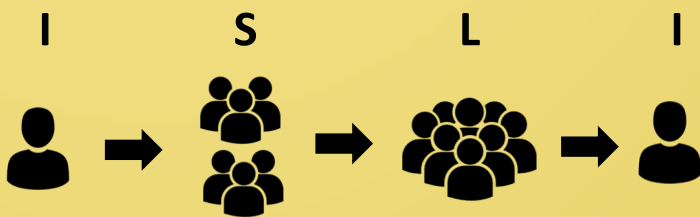
After the student who receives the ball answers the question, have them pass it to a friend for the next question.



ISLI GROUPING

Differently sized groups allow students to take different roles and responsibilities.

- Begin your lesson by having students review **I**ndependently
- Then work in **S**mall groups to discuss about the lesson
- Then in **L**arge groups to solve a problem.
- Finally, check for understanding **I**ndividually again at the end of the lesson to find out what needs re-teaching



DISCOVERY

Tape questions or pieces of information around the room and have students move around to find all the answers.

**This gets students up out of their desks while still focusing on learning.

For example: Instead of teaching about the steps of the water cycle, tape the steps on pieces of paper around the room and get students to put them in the correct order.



1/3 TTT

In your lesson plan make sure that Teacher Talking Time is not more than 1/3rd of the lesson. The other 2/3rds should allow the students to participate in learning.



THE 10:2 RULE

For every 10 minutes of instruction allow 2 minutes for students to process and respond. Ask them specific questions to check for understanding and ask for their thoughts and opinions.

