

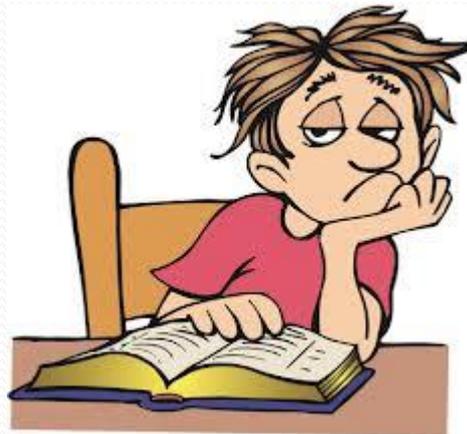
MOTIVATING STUDENTS

Florida National University

Winter 2012

Importance of Motivation

- Motivating students is one of the greatest challenges instructors face.
- Instructors have little control over external factors that influence students' behavior and engagement. BUT... we certainly can play an important role in shaping our classroom in order to motivate and engage our students.



Understanding Student Motivation

- According to Brophy (2011), “student motivation to learn is an acquired competence developed through general experience but stimulated most directly through modeling, communication of expectations, and direct instruction or socialization by other”
- Expectancy-value theory: degree to which a student is motivated to engage in an academic task is determined by his/her expectancy for success and by the value that he/she has attached to a specific task.

Key Distinction

- Extrinsic Motivation: Student learning that's driven by external rewards or incentives.
- Intrinsic Motivation: Student learning that's driven by internal/inherent interest in the learning task or learning process.



Strategies for Increasing Student Motivation

Course Design:

- a. Provide the students a basic framework of expectations and guidelines
- b. Set the tone early in the semester- clearly state the learning objectives, goals and evaluation methods.
- c. Vary your teaching methods- incorporate activities to engage the students, use multimedia and other resources.
- d. Create assignments that are appropriate and challenging.
- e. Make your lesson relevant-connect material to real-world experiences and educational goals.

Strategies for Increasing Students Motivation

Instructor Behavior:

- Show enthusiasm.
- Communicate an expectation of success.
- Provide constructive, timely feedback.
- Rapport between teacher and students.
- Avoid intense competition among students.
- Praise/Reward/Encourage
- De-emphasize grades

Strategies for Increasing Student Motivation

Motivating Students to do the Reading:

- Assign the reading at least two sessions before it will be discussed.
- Assign study questions.
- Have students turn in brief notes on the day's readings.
- Ask students to keep a journal of their readings.
- Use free class time as a reading period.
- Ask the students to create test questions from the readings.

How do I Encourage Students to be Active/Interested?

- Look for ways to connect the material to the lives of your students.
- Use current events, articles or editorials from local newspapers and other sources.
- Think of questions you can ask about the material that make students think about the subject matter.
- Add your ideas.....

How do I deal with Apathetic Students?

- Try to build a relationship with these students.
- Learning students' names and using names in class can help students understand that you are interested in them and in their success in the course.
- Measure the students' progress early and regularly, so they have a clear idea about where they stand academically.
- Let the students know when they have done well.
- Recognition/praise/encouragement
- Add your ideas.....

How do I get Students to Overcome Course Anxiety

- Talk to the student in private. Ask questions. Find out specifically what the student fears.
- Connect to the student's experience using situations/examples from daily life.
- Offer assistance before or after class.
- Add your ideas.....



How do I create assignments that are challenging but not overwhelming?

- When designing assignments, always consider the interest, abilities, and time constraints of your students.
- Do the assignments yourself and see how long it takes you.
- Have a colleague review your assignments to check if they are reasonable.
- Add your ideas.....

How do I inspire students who are only taking my course because “they have to”

- Tell them why you love the subject the subject.
- Share your enthusiasm with them.
- Bring guest speakers.
- Incorporate interesting stories or anecdotes relevant to the topic into your lecture.
- Add your ideas.....



Classic Quote

- The proper question is not, “How can people motivate others? But rather, “How can people create the conditions within which others will motivate themselves?

