

STAYING ON COURSE

Creating Opportunities One Student at a Time

August / September 2017

Strategies to Try

Research shows that providing opportunities for our students to activate prior knowledge, to make connections, and to practice the skills we teach is crucial for student success. James Lang suggests in *Small Teaching* that instructors start classes with opening questions. For example:

- * Before we start, can anyone remind me what we talked about in the last class session?
- * Before I introduce the third major theory we will explore in the course, what have been the two main theories we have discussed thus far?
- * We've seen several experiments in this area already this semester. Can someone share some of the results we observed?

Instructors hope that students take away the important information from the day's lecture or activities, but how do we really know if they did? We should not assume our teaching was absolutely flawless so many educators and researchers suggest closing classes by having the students engage in some type of retrieval or summary activity.

- * On a 4x6 card, write down the most important concept from today's class session and one question or confusion that still remains in their minds.
- * Have students take a short quiz or answer written questions about the day's materials.
- * On a 4x6 card (or 1/2 sheet of paper) students write an IOU which is an **I**nteresting or **U**seful piece of information learned from the class session.

Providing students opportunities to reflect and/or write questions about what they learned helps them retain the information and recall it at a later point. Instructors also receive immediate feedback from these closing activities to help guide instruction to clarify information or answer questions the students have. It's a win-win for both the student and the instructor.

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What Are Your Ideas?

What quick and effective introduction or closing activities do you use with your students?

Send your strategies to Ann

Brandon
by the end
of Sept. to
be placed

in a drawing for a
gift card.



Faculty Professional Learning Book Group

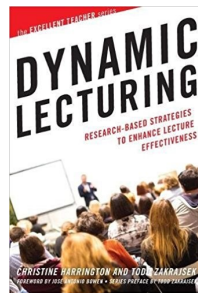
Our first book club discussion was held on our fall flex day session and we discussed James Lang's *Small Teaching: Everyday lessons from the Science of Learning*. All who participated came away with a few ideas to try this semester. In fact, a number of faculty mentioned that many of the ideas presented in the book confirmed the good practices they already employ as they teach. The book is a quick read and the end of each chapter, the author provides "Quick Tips" that you can use. Our library has a copy or you can probably borrow from one of your colleagues.

Our new book for the spring flex day book group session is *Dynamic Lecturing: Research-Based Strategies To Enhance Lecture Effectiveness* by Christine Harrington and Todd Zakrajsek (ISBN: 978-1620366172).

Some reviews:

"This book provides so many practical ways to apply neuroscience and cognitive psychology research in the classroom for more intentional teaching and better student outcomes" (Kathy Nabours, Math Instructor—Riverside CC)

"[The authors] demonstrate how we can use lectures as an effective teaching tool for moving our students to be more interested in their own learning. An excellent resource." (Kathleen Gabriel, Education—CSU Chico).



For more best practices and ideas:

www.onscourseworkshop.com/best-practices/

<http://www.usf.edu/atle/documents/handout-interactive-techniques.pdf>

<https://www.facultyfocus.com/topic/articles/teaching-professor-blog/>

On Course I Workshop

December 13-15th (8:00-5:00) CCC is hosting the next On Course I Workshop. Be a part of campus-wide professional development opportunity. Spots are filling up so e-mail Ann Brandon by October 31st (or sooner) to reserve your seat. Don't miss it.

Opportunities to Participate and Learn

Active Learning Saturday Series - Remaining sessions are on September 30th and October 28th - 10:00-12:00 in AC2-276. Registration Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/4wxcbanVN87awe8x1>

Distance Education Tuesday Evening Series - Remaining sessions are on September 19th and October 17th - 6:00-8:00 in AC2-177. Registration Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/4oSQAlldJoaeNgVpL2>



Colleague Connections

If you have successful active-learning strategies and ideas you want to share or want to highlight what you learned at workshops or conferences, send Ann B. an e-mail.