

TIPS FOR ENHANCING STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

A NOTE FOR INSTRUCTORS

The following document is a practical resource for **Purdue instructors** with research-based strategies and tips for boosting student engagement, both within and beyond the classroom.

Check out the other side of this page to view engagement tips and strategies designed for Purdue students.



VISIT PURDUE'S INNOVATIVE LEARNING WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO MORE RESOURCES



ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC HUMAN CONNECTIONS

- Keep in mind that your students are human beings with lives outside of class.
- Display your own humanity; let your uniqueness and idiosyncrasies come through.
- Model intellectual approaches and share your process of solving difficult problems.

FOSTER CURIOSITY



- Pull students in with examples of unanswered questions and mysteries within your discipline.
- Communicate your passion for your subject.
- Recognize that emotions guide learning.



USE VARIETY TO ACTIVATE COGNITION

- Vary activities and pedagogical approaches.
- Switch between the students and you as idea generators.
- Consider having students physically move, discuss with one another, pose and answer questions, or apply newly gained knowledge.
- Incorporate flexibility within structure by offering students choices where possible.



BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING

- Emphasize the value each student brings to the learning environment.
- Encourage study groups and shared documents.
- Survey the students during Week 1 and ask what they want to get out of the course.

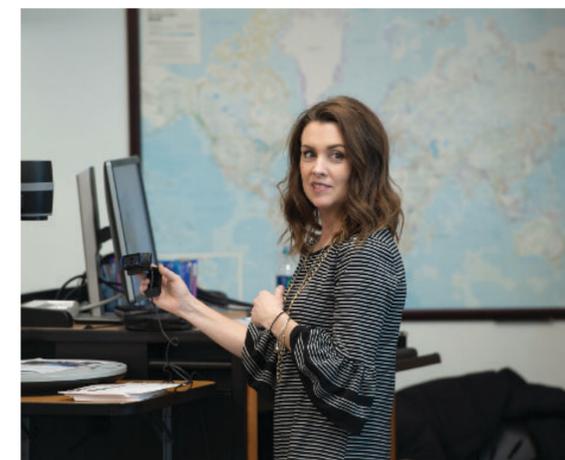
SET THE TONE EARLY, OFTEN

- Consider all of these strategies **when planning** your course.
- Explicitly communicate the value of the in-person learning environment, as well as the benefits of attending class and participating in discussions.
- Use the first class period to model the type of engagement you want to see.
- Emphasize where the syllabus encourages attendance and participation.



CONVEY THE RELEVANCE OF THE CONTENT

- Integrate actual real-life examples.
- Explain the benefit of the lesson beyond the discipline.
- Challenge students to connect the material to their own lives.



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Get plenty of sleep and exercise, and eat healthy foods.
- Be explicit with yourself and your students regarding the boundaries you have set (e.g., responding to emails only during business hours).
- Experiment with a range of coping strategies.
- Minimize emotional exhaustion.



Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

TIPS FOR ENHANCING ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

A NOTE FOR STUDENTS

The following document is a practical resource for **Purdue students** with research-based strategies and tips for boosting your engagement, both within and beyond the classroom.

Check out the other side of this page to view engagement tips and strategies designed for Purdue instructors.



VISIT PURDUE'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO MORE RESOURCES



ESTABLISH AUTHENTIC HUMAN CONNECTIONS

- Keep in mind, your instructors are human beings who experience struggles and may make mistakes from which you can learn.
- Remember, your peers are human beings with lives outside of class and with experiences that are different than yours; you can learn from each other.

BE CURIOUS AND FIND YOUR PASSION(S)

- Remember that being a student is a scholarly and active endeavor.
- Allow yourself to wonder and be affected — be open to difficult content, conversations, and growth through uncomfortable moments.
- Share what you have learned with someone each day.
- Ask questions — in class, during office hours, and to yourself.
- Ask your instructors about their research.



USE (AND EXPECT) VARIETY

- Be prepared to engage in a variety of ways, which requires more than just showing up and listening.
- Use a variety of study strategies to learn (this will likely require some trial and error).
- Appreciate and adapt to the different teaching methods your instructors use.



BUILD A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

- Challenge yourself to put down your phone and engage with your neighbors before the start of class.
- Push through the awkwardness and talk with peers and instructors.
- Learn the names of your instructors and your classmates.

SET THE TONE FOR YOUR SEMESTER EARLY, OFTEN

- **Begin now.** This all starts from Day 1 of class.
- Build good habits early related to attendance and class participation. Engaging in class will help you maximize your success in achieving learning outcomes.
- Read and review the syllabus, course schedules, and other guidelines.
- Anticipate your workload and schedule, and make a plan that includes proactive communication with your instructors.



EXPLORE THE CONTENT'S RELEVANCE

- Connect course materials to your life.
- Draw connections between concepts across different courses; mention these connections specifically in activities and assignments.
- Discover how your discipline relates to and intersects with other fields of study.



TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

- Get plenty of sleep and exercise, and eat healthy foods.
- Develop the life skill of seeking out resources related to your holistic learning, including learning how to manage your stress levels.
- Experiment with a range of coping strategies.
- Minimize emotional exhaustion.

Students with questions about this content may email Purdue's Academic Success Center.
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