Welcome TA’s / TF’s

New Teachers’ Dilemma:

How can I engage the students?
Engaging The Students

Think for a moment about this:

- What makes a class, lab, etc. excellent? And what makes a professor / instructor excellent?
Engaging The Students

Common Answers:

Class was interesting.
The professor knew the subject really well.
I wasn’t bored. The teacher made it exciting.
I got a good grade because the teacher was good.
I looked forward to going to class.
The teacher explained her points well.
The professor really helped me a lot.
Engaging The Students

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Engaging The Students

Two Generalizations

1. Excellent Teachers / TA’s know their stuff!
Engaging The Students

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Engaging The Students

Two Generalizations

1. Excellent Teachers, TA / TF’s know their stuff!

2. Students feel rewarded when they are engaged.
Engaging The Students

How?

V I M
Engaging The Students

V......voice

I.......interaction

M.....mobility

1. We can engage with them.
2. We can monitor them.
3. We can modify them.
Engaging The Students

V......VOICE

1. We can engage with them.

I.......INTERACTION

2. We can monitor them.

M.....MOBILITY

3. We can modify them.
Engaging The Students

Example #1

Good Morning

(movement towards class, loud clear voice, expectation of answer)
Engaging The Students

Example #2

OK, today we continue with the quadratic formula.

\[ ax^2 + bx + c = 0 \]

(Abrupt beginning, teacher centered, students maybe not on task)
Engaging The Students

Let’s Look at Each Part
Engaging The Students: Voice

- Appropriate Volume = Holds Attention

How Can We Monitor?

ASK: “Can you hear me?”
LOOK: Are people paying attention? On task?
Engaging The Students: Voice

- Appropriate Rate = Comfort

How Can We Monitor?

ASK:  “Did you get that?” “Ready to go on?”
LOOK:  What are students doing?
     On task?
ACCEPT: “Dead Air”. Why? What happens?
Engaging The Students: Voice

- Over-pronunciation = Comprehension

“Hit the Ends of Words.”

(Especially true for non-native speakers of English!)
Engaging The Students: Voice

- Don’t Engage the Whiteboard!
  SPEAK OUT

IF possible: Pre-write info on board or slide.
Engaging The Students: Interaction

Interaction = Q & A = Classroom Personality

1. Before beginning instruction
   “Any questions before we begin?”
   (or) making small talk

What happens?
Engaging The Students: Interaction

Interaction = Tying Lessons Together

Previous class ➔ current lecture/lab

Get everyone on the same page:

“Last class we began studying the quadratic formula and we said that it was written.....?.....

.....(student input)......exactly \( ax^2 + bx + c = 0. \)”
Engaging The Students: Interaction

- Interaction = Q & A = Check for Understanding

  (general Q’s)  Did you get that?
  Is that clear? Are you sure?

  (specific Q’s)  So the result is negative.
  Why? Could it also be positive? Why not?
Engaging The Students: Interaction

Interaction = Q & A = Check for Understanding

Basic Questioning Techniques:

1. Use “wait time”.
3. Ask question, then “call on”.
4. Distribute questions (Traffic Cop).
Engaging The Students: Interaction

Interaction = Clear and Helpful Cues

1. This is important. Make sure you get it down.
2. Study this before the quiz.
3. Watch out here. This is tricky.
4. See me if you’re having trouble, and soon.

Cues = Build Alliance = Confidence
Engaging The Students: Mobility

Good Teaching is 3 Dimensional

1. Behind desk/podium
   - teacher centered
   - teacher as expert/authority

   “I speak, you listen”.
Engaging The Students: Mobility

Good Teaching is 3 Dimensional

2. At the Board
   - transfer information from books
   - go over problems

   “I explain, you copy, ask questions”. 
Engaging The Students: Mobility

Good Teaching is 3 Dimensional

2. Near the Students
   - student centered
   - teacher as facilitator

“I want you to be involved, make alliances, give opinions and feedback”.

CONCLUSIONS
Engaging The Students

Conclusions

*Expertise* and *Perfection* come with time.

(but)

*Engaging Students* can come sooner.

(if you)

Monitor and modify 3 things.....which are...?

(V I M ) (V I M ) (V I M ) (V I M ) (V I M ) (V I M ) (V I M )
Questions, problems, copies of slides:

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