RESEARCH-BASED TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION

Despite the rich differences among our academic disciplines, five conclusions hold true for effective teaching--no matter the college.

EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION . . .

1. MAINTAINS POSITIVE AFFECT AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH STUDENTS.

- Instructor passion for the subject matter and for learning
- Respect for students
- Faith in their ability to learn (high expectations and support to achieve them)
- Positive rapport
- Frequent instructor-student interactions within and outside of class
- Immediacy (eye contact, varied intonation, humor, physical proximity)

2. IS FOCUSED ON LEARNER OUTCOMES AND MAXIMIZES TIME ON TASK.

- Clear and appropriate structure for course and sessions
- Learning activities and instructional time are driven by the outcomes.
- Instructor consistently orients students to the outcomes and tasks

3. HAS A HIGH DEGREE OF CLARITY.

- Verbal and nonverbal messages
- Signposting: Preview, review; internal summaries; transitions
- Analogies
- Rich input (text, speech, images, stories)
- Deep processing (detailed, intensive thinking that causes us to remember content)

4. USES PRINCIPLES OF ACTIVE LEARNING, INCLUDING MOTIVATION AND ADULT LEARNING THEORY.

- Builds the need to know, purpose for learning
- Activates and supports prior knowledge
- Builds student metacognition
- Appeals to sense of novelty and interest
- Includes collaborative learning
- Seeks immediate application

5. EMPLOYS FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT.

- Driven by learning outcomes
- Frequent, specific, accurate feedback on student learning
- Multiple sources of feedback
- Employs feedback to modify instruction

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