2018 Teaching Assistant Institute

Teaching Strategies for Engaging Students
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Session Summary
Students learn best when they are actively engaged in their own learning. Yet creating an environment to encourage student engagement can often seem challenging for both new and experienced teachers. There are a variety of strategies you can use to promote student engagement in your classes.

Key Concepts
- Get to know your students. Learn their names, and talk to them before class. Students will be much more engaged in your course if they have the sense that you care about them and their academic success.
- Students are more likely to learn when the content is relevant to them. Provide your students with real-world experiences or examples, and they will be more engaged.
- Encourage interaction and allow students to discuss the content with each other. Make sure that students understand the purpose of each activity.
- Create an active learning environment by breaking up content delivery with opportunities for students to “DO” something, even if it is simply to talk to a neighbor or have a class-wide discussion on the material just presented.
- Consider assignments that engage students in the material outside of the classroom using real-world experiences, case studies, or data.

Next Steps
- Think about active exercises to include in your teaching.
- Attend workshops offered by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center to add to your student engagement toolkit.

Resources
- Classroom Discussions, by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center: facdev.niu.edu/discussions
- Questioning Strategies to Engage Students, by the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center: facdev.niu.edu/questioningstrategies

Got Questions?
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