





# Seven Great Ideas to Improve the Learning Experience for your Students

- **Recognize Who Your Students Are -**  
<http://www.cmu.edu/teaching/designteach/design/yourstudents.html>
- **Characteristics of Adult Learners -**  
<http://www.cte.cornell.edu/faculty/adult.html>
- **Teaching a Diverse Student Body -**  
[http://trc.virginia.edu/Publications/Diversity/TOC\\_PDF.htm](http://trc.virginia.edu/Publications/Diversity/TOC_PDF.htm)

## 3. Expand Your Source Materials

The wealth of materials available online is awesome! When was the last time you searched for new materials to integrate into your class? Take time to simply explore what's new.



- **Finding Materials Worksheet -**  
[http://www.facultysupport.com/resources/Finding\\_Materials\\_Worksheet.doc](http://www.facultysupport.com/resources/Finding_Materials_Worksheet.doc)

## 4. Vary Your Presentation Strategy

We tend to teach the way we were taught, and we tend to use techniques and strategies with which we are most comfortable. Expand your teaching repertoire by adopting new or varied strategies for presenting materials.

***It takes effort and persistence to adopt and use new strategies.***

Strategies from <http://www.cte.cornell.edu/faculty/materials/CoursePlanningQuestions.pdf>:

- a. Continuous series of lectures and reading assignments, periodically interrupted by 1 or 2 mid terms.  
("hear - read - test")
- b. Sequence of reading, reflective writing, and whole class discussion (sequence repeated for each topic).  
("read - write - talk") (A variation is "read - talk - write")
- c. Start with lab or field work observations, followed by readings, and whole class discussions.  
("do/look - read - talk") (Write-ups of lab/field work are sometimes included)
- d. Present lectures, followed by field work or lab observations.  
("hear - see/do")



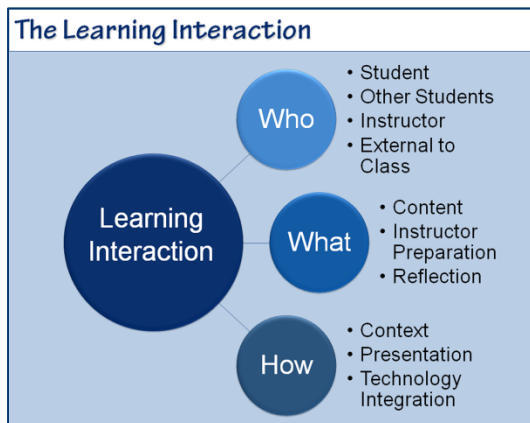


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- e. Students do assigned readings, followed by mini-tests done individually and/or in small groups; then move on to group-based application projects. ("read-individual/group tests - DO")
- f. Work through a series of developmental stages: build knowledge and/or skills (3-5 weeks); work on small application projects (3-5 weeks); and then work on larger, more complex projects (3-5 weeks). ("know/know-how - do - DO")
- g. Contract for a grade: (for example; read text and pass exams = C, + do research paper = B, + extended project = A).

## 5. Engage Your Students through Interaction

The **Learning Interaction** is the complex interplay between **who** is engaged, **what** is being presented, and **how** it is presented. Each element of the interaction can be active or have an impact in a range from low to high. Dynamic and engaging learning experiences can be designed by creating learning activities where all elements of the learning interaction are highly active or have a high impact.



- Increase the opportunities for interaction between students and the community.
- Use active learning techniques in the classroom.
- Challenge students with activities that emphasize analyzing, evaluating, and creating.
- Adopt dynamic, adaptable presentation styles.

**Collaborative Learning: Group Work and Study Teams -**  
<http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/collaborative.html>

**Lecturing & Active Learning -**  
<http://cit.duke.edu/get-ideas/teaching-strategies/active-learning/>

**Expanded View of Bloom's Taxonomy -**  
<http://www.ntlf.com/Library/Expanded%20Taxonomy%20of%20Learning.doc>



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## 6. Keep It Fresh!

Teaching is an ongoing process. Taking time to reflect is an opportunity to assess both what has worked well and to determine what could be changed. Reflection is important for both students and instructors and can be implemented throughout the learning cycle and not just at the end of a course.

- Encourage students to assess their own learning.
- Use real-time strategies to provide feedback:
  - Face-to-face or Virtual class discussion
  - Small group interaction
  - Peer interaction
  - Chat
  - Adaptive release rules for online content and testing
  - Feedback with online testing
  - Individual or group presentations
  - One-on-one sessions with instructor
  - Tutoring
- Develop and implement a plan/strategy for keeping course materials current and up-to-date.

### **The Teaching Assessment & Evaluation Guide -**

<http://www.uwindsor.ca/faculty/recruitment/sites/uwindsor.ca.faculty.recruitment/files/Teaching%20Assessment%20and%20Evaluation%20York%20University.pdf>

### **Active Learning Handbook -**

<http://fdc.webster.edu/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/active-learning.pdf>

## 7. Embrace Technology

Technology is pervasive and ubiquitous, and for many, it can be a “love/hate” relationship. Learning new technology takes time and effort, and new technology is always accompanied by new problems. It can also be a powerful tool with several advantages:

- It can make your life easier.
- It adds interest and engagement for your students.
- It can transform the learning experience.





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## Examples of How Technology is Used in Higher Education



### Basic Applications

- Web Browser
- Common Plug-ins
- Working Remotely
- Word Processing
- Slide Presentation
- Spreadsheets
- Database



### Collaboration Tools

- Virtual Group Tools
- Shared Online Editing Tools
- Wiki



### Communication Tools

- E-mail
- Announcements
- Secure Messaging
- Blog
- Social Networking



### Multimedia Tools

- PDF Creator
- Image Editing
- Web Site Development
- Audio Recording and Editing
- Video Recording and Editing
- Digital Storytelling
- Media Conversion



### Class Management Tools

- Learning Management System
- Enrollment
- Grades
- Early Warning System



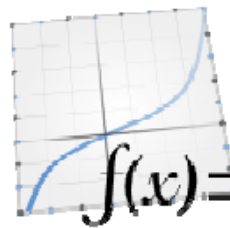
### Reflection Tools

- Reflective Blogging
- Rubric Creation
- Online Surveys
- Online Testing
- Test Creation
- Plagiarism Detection
- ePortfolios
- Online Course Evaluations



### Presentation Tools

- LCD Projector
- Document Camera
- Electronic Whiteboard
- Learning Management System Content Area
- Lecture Capture
- Video
- Podcast
- iTunes



### Research Tools

- Bibliography Management
- Statistical Analysis



### Interaction Tools

- Clickers
- Discussion Board
- Chat
- Virtual Classroom



### Specialty Software Tools

- Varies by Discipline

For more information and links to additional resources, visit:  
<http://www.facultysupport.com>