

MOTIVATING THE YOUNG MINDS

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One of the crucial aspects in teaching is grasping your students' motivation to focus in class and digesting the lessons. Whenever they are given any tasks, they will ask, "Is it one of the assessments?" or "will there be any marks given for this assignment?". The most challenging situation as a lecturer is to motivate your students to do not just --- the required assessments, but the practices as well. There are methods in motivating the millennial minds, which are:

1) Get to Know Them

The first day of the semester is the most crucial hours for you and your students. The first thing that you must do is to get to know your students well. During the ice-breaking session, you can make it into something meaningful rather than a boring -normal introductory session. You can ask your students number of questions such as their true passion, a basic principle in their lives, how they perceive life, their perspectives in friendship and the list goes on and on. You might be surprised with the answers that you will get! Students are very unpredictable. Never underestimate their true potential. Your first day with your students is the day that you will get the first impression, make sure you slay it!

2) Students will get to Know You

Once they have introduced themselves and opened up their minds towards you, it is the time for you to introduce yourself. It is okay to make up 'a little story' about yourself and how hard it is to be in your current 'position'. Whilst you're telling your story, make sure you give some motivational insights, not just to make them see how cool you are (the millennial generations love the fact that their lecturers are cool enough), but the real intention is to gain respect, trust, and to make them open their hearts to your teaching and learning sessions in class. But always remember to draw a fine line between you and your students. The fact that you're so cool and approachable, it is important that your students respect you. On your first day, the very last thing to talk is on rules and regulations. Tell them the do's and don'ts in your class so you won't get much problems later on.

3) Simplify!

Students often see assignments as difficult tasks to do. All you have to do is, simplify your instructions. Show them the right way. If possible, teach them some short-cuts. This is not only applicable to assignments, but you can practice this method to your teaching as well. Even though most of the textbooks are now in simplified versions, it is easier if you can teach some tips or easy ways to learn some topics or chapters. Believe me, students will be grateful with this method.

4) Always Relate Your Lesson With Real Life Situation

If you can read your students' minds, you will see the pop-ups balloons from their heads stating, "Why on earth do I have to learn this?" and so many whys. So, in order to erase the confusions, always relate the topic with their life situation. For example, when you are teaching them paraphrasing, you can tell them that they can apply this technique in writing their final year proposal later. So, they can see the purpose clearly (even though you had mentioned the objectives of the lessons at the beginning of the semester). In addition, you can be as creative as you can while relating the lessons with the real life situation.

5) The Future is Possible

Last but not least, always motivate your students to further their studies. Share with them your wonderful experiences while when you were doing your Masters or PhD. Tell them how important it is to be educated, share with them how education has changed the way you think, they way you see life and motivate them to enjoy their life as students. In the end of the day, you will be happily teaching and your students will be enjoying themselves in class. Good luck!

