

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**