Engaging Instruction Artifacts

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Engaging instruction is critical to keep students focused. It helps to "stimulate learning participation and impact academic achievement" (Rockoff, 2004). Although there is no census on what engaging instruction entails, I will work to have total participation in my class (Rockoff, 2004). Total participation techniques can dramatically improve teaching and learning by allowing me to provide engaging instruction, which will lead to all students having the opportunity to demonstrate at the same time and allow for active participation and cognitive engagement (Himmele, P., & Himmele, W., 2017). Engaging my students in learning will create an environment that will allow me to elevate even the student that sits quietly while needing help. To engage all my students, I must do more than stand in front of the class and give information. Instead, I will work to "co-create a classroom environment that is safe, affirming, learning-centered innovative, intellectually challenging, and engaging" (Milner et al., 2019). While creating an open environment, I will use techniques like Kahoot, student reflections, and student presentations.

Kahoot is an interactive app that allows students to review class content as a game show (Himmele, P., & Himmele, W., 2017). Kahoot allows me to create fun trivia activities that can be played solo or as a group. After creating an account, I can create true or false questions, multiple-choice questions, fill-in-the-blank answers, puzzles, polls, open-ended questions, or images. Once students play what was created in Kahoot, it will generate a report that allows me to see who played, the frequently missed questions, and what students are struggling with in the lesson. Knowing this will allow me to engage in critical reflection and to become aware if I need to change my approach to teaching a specific topic (Milner et al., 2019). I will use Kahoot as a review and have students play in class. I will rent laptop computers for students that do not bring their

computers to class. To begin the activity, students will sign in using a fake name. I will post the questions on a screen and use a timer giving each student time to answer the question. After each question is answered, we will discuss why the correct answer was right and what would have made the wrong answer correct. Using Kahoot is a way to have total participation because each student is participating at the same time.

Reflection is another activity that I will use to promote engaging instruction for students. Reflection allows students to evaluate what they are learning and how they are participating in class (Milner et al., 2019). I will start with students writing a short paragraph or making bullets of what they learned during the lecture. Himmele, P., and Himmele, W. (2017) suggest that I should have students be specific by discussing what they think is essential to ensure a higher order of thinking. I will use what the students write and place them in categories based on similarities, differences, and surprises; this is the format used for chalkboard splash (Himmele, P., & Himmele, W., 2017). I will then use what the students wrote to have an open discussion. Engaging students in this discussion will allow students to see how their peers understood the lesson (Milner et at., 2019).

Student presentations are like research projects. It will allow me to use a student-centered approach in teaching. Creating a student-centered space allows students to share their knowledge and teach the class what they have learned (Milner et al., 2019). As student presenters, the student must plan, implement, and provide an assessment of the topic they are covering (Milner et al., 2019). First, students are divided into two or more groups and given a list of topics to choose from. The students will research the topic and create a written presentation or PowerPoint to share with the class. I will use a rubric to guide students on the format and information that should be presented. After the presentation, the student must provide three questions or more to generate a

discussion with their peers. Having the class discuss the topic after the presentation will allow a supportive environment for students to share what they found exciting or learned more about and allows the students to build on engaging with the class (Milner et al., 2019).

It is crucial that I ensure all students participate in learning. Using engaging instruction techniques such as Kahoot, student reflections, and student presentations will help me to create an environment that will promote learning. In addition to keeping students engaged, this will create a learning environment where students feel fully seen, heard, respected, and cared for (Milner et al., 2017).

References

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