

Engaging Instruction Artifacts

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Engaging instruction consists of the teacher not only thinking about how to deliver course material to students but also about the students' experiences during the class time (Milner et al., 2019, p. 70). Applying engaging instruction artifacts in the classroom is vital in supporting student learning as well as classroom management (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 4; Milner et al., 2019, p. 99). Student-involved instruction is important for educational achievement, which can be enriched through student-centered activities, increasing student engagement (Milner et al., 2019, p. 99). According to Himmele & Himmele (2017, p. 4), utilizing Total Participation Techniques (TPTs) can promote student academic success and cognitive involvement. Disengagement and boredom are common factors associated with lessons that do not have in-class activities for student participation (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 6-7). Engaging instruction can provide the teacher with a sense of control and stability knowing the students are actively involved in the lesson content, displaying effective classroom management (Milner et al., 2019, p. 57). Ultimately, engaging instruction is of paramount importance in the classroom to aid in enhancing student knowledge and classroom management (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 4; Milner et al., 2019, p. 99).

In order to enhance student participation in my classroom, an engaging instruction artifact that would be useful is a writing prompt relating to the lesson. For my class, I am presenting a lesson on oral hygiene aids, specifically oral irrigators, interdental brushes, and floss threaders. I would give my students an individual prompt asking them to determine what types of patients they believe would benefit from using oral irrigators, interdental brushes, and floss threaders. The students would use pencil and paper to answer the prompt, which would be voluntarily discussed in class and turned in at the end of class. Utilizing a writing prompt as a TPT during class time will have all students engaged in the content using their critical thinking

skills to form responses (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 15). Student participation during instruction is key to having successful classroom management, meaning if all students are actively providing responses to the proposed writing prompt, the classroom is being productively managed (Milner et al., 2019, p. 57). As a result, writing prompts are a type of engaging instruction artifact that is beneficial in supporting student learning while also having an effectively managed classroom (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 15; Milner et al., 2019, p. 57).

Another approach to encouraging student involvement during a lesson, especially for dental hygiene course content, is to use a case study. In my classroom, I will lecture on patient-based radiographic needs, and I will provide my students with a case study giving information on a patient's pocket depth measurements, risk for cavities, and the last time radiographs were exposed. Following whole group instruction, the students will work in collaborative pairs to come up with answers about what they feel would be the appropriate type of radiographs needed if indicated based on the provided information in the case study. Using a case study as an engaging instruction artifact can help the student learn how to apply course content to real patient scenarios (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 18). Additionally, a case study is another way of promoting effective classroom management because the activity is student-centered, where pairs are working to determine the most appropriate type of radiographs to expose (Milner et al., 2019, p. 99). Overall, utilizing a case study as an engaging instruction artifact will help students learn to relate patient scenarios to potential real-world diagnostic situations while also displaying effective classroom management (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 18; Milner et al., 2019, p. 99).

To support student learning and classroom management, the utilization of an interactive app, such as Kahoot, as an engaging instruction artifact can be favorable (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 114). In my class, I will provide insight on dental hygiene treatment planning to my

students. Learning the concepts of dental hygiene treatment planning is an ongoing process in class, so having Kahoot as a review aid can be very helpful. For this activity, the students will work in pairs using one of their phones or laptops to log into Kahoot to actively participate in answering questions regarding dental hygiene treatment planning. Interactive app usage as an engaging instruction artifact can promote active learning due to the instant results and the game-like feeling it gives students (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 114). In addition, interactive apps like Kahoot can help enhance effective classroom management due to students being on task and focused on correctly answering the questions regarding dental hygiene treatment planning (Milner et al., 2017, p. 99). Therefore, interactive apps, such as Kahoot, are advantageous in advancing the student learning process and fostering classroom management (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p. 114; Milner et al., 2019, p. 99).

Engaging instruction plays a major role in the educational achievement of students. When using engaging instruction artifacts like a writing prompt, case study, and an interactive app, students will be more likely to engage in the lesson because the activity associated with it is student-centered (Milner et al., 2019, p. 99). In dental hygiene courses, it is imperative to include student-involved activities for each of the dental hygiene students to apply concepts immediately or for review to prepare them for real-life situations. (Himmele & Himmele, 2017, p.18). Moreover, utilizing activities can promote student learning as well as effective classroom management (Milner et al., 2019, p. 57). Therefore, in order to provide engaging instruction, the teacher must purposefully focus on the lesson as well as the student experience (Milner et al., 2019, p. 70).

References

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