Teaching Tip of the Month

One quick and easy tip each month aimed at improving teaching and learning.

Do the unexpected on that first day of class. When you surprise your students on the first day with an activity or approach to the course that they wouldn’t expect, you create a memorable and intriguing experience (ingredients for attention and learning). You also shatter any expectations they have about school being predictable and boring and signal to them that this course will be different. Take the pressure off of yourself to go over the course syllabus in detail… or at all. Yes, students need and deserve to know the course requirements and your expectations, but you can highlight the important things during the last fifteen minutes of class and ask them to read the syllabus for the next class. Answer questions about the course and syllabus at the start of the second class. Give a syllabus quiz with prizes.

Joe Finckel & Bill Searle

Asnuntuck Community College / Center for Teaching