The 5 Most Important Topics

This week’s Student Feedback Technique (SFT) provides a double-benefit. First, it helps you get students to reflect upon what they are learning. Second, another key to diagnostic-based teaching is knowing if students are receiving what we are teaching. Do expect a range of responses because students take a course for all sorts of reasons. However, if you are being clear, many responses should reflect what you have emphasized.

The SFT appears below, but here is the process:

Ask students to…

- Fill out this SFT individually and anonymously in 5 – 6 minutes
- Be as complete as they can be in their responses – emphasize that there are no “right answers”
- Do not consult with each other before you answer

Finally, tell students that you will review their responses and tell them how you plan to use the information.

Analyze their responses. Do most include topics you believe students should be listing as “important topics” in your course? Is there too much of a spread of topics (if so, what can you do in the future to better emphasize what you consider the most important topics)? Are there some students who agree upon a topic that you do not feel is really that important (if so, ask students to voluntarily tell you why they feel it important to get more insight)? How will this information change the way you teach the course in the future?

In the next The Practical Professor: Tip Series #4
The 5 Most Important Topics

I need your help. At this point in the course, I need to know what you think the “5 most important topics” are that we have studied.

Please do not put your name on this – it is not a quiz and there are no wrong answers. Also, please just give me your personal response; do not check with each other. You do not need to explain the topic, or define it.

This will provide me valuable information both as I prepare further instruction and for the next time I teach this course.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Thank you for your input!
Also available!

Teaching
A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty

The Top 10…

No. 1 – The All-Important First Day of Class
No. 2 – Ways to Make Your Teaching Life Easier
No. 3 – The Crucial Second and Third Classes
No. 4 – Ways to Show Students that You Respect Them
No. 5 – Promote Effective Student Study Skills
No. 6 – Components of a Well-Planned Class
No. 7 – Observe Your Teaching Tendencies
No. 8 – Ways to Keep Your Students Learning
No. 9 – Ways to Get Feedback on Teaching from Students
No. 10 – Using Short Writing to Assess Learning
No. 11 – Getting More (and Better) Student Questions
No. 12 – Mixing Things up Mid-Semester
No. 13 – Engaging Different Input Preferences
No. 14 – Helping Students Stay the Journey
No. 15 – Ways to End Your Course
No. 16 – Resources for Learning and Teaching
No. 17 – Create a Memorable AND Functional Syllabus
No. 18 – Ways to Build Your Students’ Self-Efficacy
No. 19 – Practical Study Tips to Share with Your Students
No. 20 – Laddering Thinking Skills
No. 21 – Learning Based Ways to End Lessons
No. 22 – Ways and Reasons to Be Vulnerable While Teaching
No. 23 – Using Student Groups
No. 24 – Components of a Complete Learning Experience
No. 25 – Ways to Use Visuals for Learning
No. 26 – Students’ Locus of Control
No. 27 – Help Students with Rigorous Writing Assignments
No. 28 – Ways to Shake Up Your Teaching
No. 29 – Teaching to Inspire
No. 30 – Paths to Mindfulness

Contact your campus Teaching and Learning Consultant (TLC) or e-mail us at:

JFinckel@asnuntuck.edu or WSearle@asnuntuck.edu

© 2015 Joseph Finckel and Bill Searle
THE CENTER FOR TEACHING · ASNUNTK COMMUNITY COLLEGE