What Do They Know About …?

Student Feedback Technique Series #5

This week’s Student Feedback Technique (SFT) provides another double-benefit. First, it gives you a chance to focus students on what you consider the top 5 concepts/processes/skills in your course right from the beginning. Second, it gives you a picture of where the class as a whole is in relation to understanding course concepts. The latter idea is a key when practicing diagnostic-based teaching. Once you know how much students understand, you can tailor your teaching and assignments to your students’ needs, not what a textbook provides for all students.

Why do this? Consider medicine. When you go to a doctor, do you want the doctor to prescribe the same activities and medicine for everyone? No, you want your doctor to pay careful attention to your symptoms and prescribe treatment based upon your needs, not some generalized group. The same applies to diagnostic-based teaching.

Oh, there is another benefit if you wish. Ask the same questions at the end of the course and you have great pre- and post-instruction information.

Process:

Ask students to
- Fill out this SFT individually in 5 – 6 minutes
- Be as complete as they can in their responses – emphasize that there are no “right answers” – that you are merely gathering information so that you can tailor learning activities and your teaching directly to their needs
- Not worry at all if they know nothing about some, or all, of the information you have provided as you are going to teach these concepts during the semester

Procedure:
- Adapt the sheet provided to your needs, and fill in the 5 subjects
- Make sure to reiterate to students that this is not a quiz

In the next The Practical Professor: Tip Series #5

© 2016 Joseph Finckel and Bill Searle
THE CENTER FOR TEACHING · ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
What Do You Know About…?

I need your help. Please do not put your name on this. This is not a quiz or test. There are no right or wrong answers. Your answers will help me design assignments and aim my teaching at what you and your fellow students need to learn. I have listed 5 key subjects that this course covers below. Please tell me what you know about each one, as completely as possible. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers! If you know nothing about a subject, please just write “I do not know anything about this.” That is fine! After all, we haven’t even started the course yet.

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

© 2016 Joseph Finckel and Bill Searle
THE CENTER FOR TEACHING - ASNUNTUCK COMMUNITY COLLEGE