Welcome to the next installment of our Reflective Practice series! This series gives you a variety of ways to become a more reflective practitioner.

In our desire to get our students to understand core concepts, we often forget that what moves the world are new ideas and creative approaches to problems and issues. In this light, creativity and innovative thinking may be the most important core concepts that we can teach our students.

If you ask students at end of a lesson to identify some practical applications of what they are learning, you are reinforcing a good and higher-order thinking skill. But how can we help students become creative and innovative thinkers?

Questions to consider:

- How important a skill is creative or innovative thinking?
- How do I help my students develop innovative or creative thinking skills through my teaching?
- How do I encourage or require creative or innovative thinking in my teaching?
- How do I model or practice creative or innovative thinking for my students?

One idea is to ask students to come up with some new applications, “what if…” scenarios, or ideas related to your lesson that are so “out there” that they would ordinarily never consider raising them in class.

Thanks for your interest! Have a great day!

In the next *The Practical Professor: Ask The Practical Professor #5*
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

Back issues of The Teaching Top 10 and The Practical Professor can be found here:

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