

Teaching Tip Tuesday

Encouraging Deep Learning

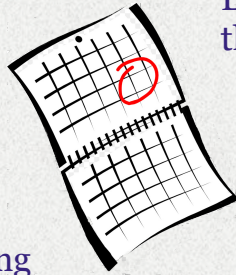
Superficial versus Deep Learning Strategies

Students often invest study time only learning what they think they need to know in order to achieve a desired grade in a course. This **superficial approach** to learning often leads to learning that fades over time, and does not provide a strong foundation for future learning. In contrast, **deep learning strategies** involve students learning about something for the sake of learning about it, often within contexts that lead to lasting retention of knowledge and thinking skills. Follow these tips to encourage your students to engage in deeper learning.

Best Practices for Encouraging Deep Learning

Increase Awareness

Discuss the difference between superficial and deep learning strategies with students.



Learning Projects

Long-term, in-depth projects lend themselves to deeper involvement than one-time homework assignments.

Long-term Goals

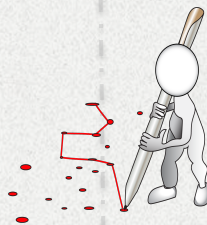
Have students set their own learning goals, considering what they expect themselves to know at the end of the term as well as five years from now.

Contextualize

Use authentic examples and problems to help students appreciate applicability of knowledge to long-term goals.

Ask Student to Integrate Learning

By relating new learning to concepts already mastered, students are better able to appreciate the context of the information, and form mental maps that facilitate recall.



Provide Reasonable Workload

Large amounts of busy work can easily overwhelm students' limited study time. By keeping the workload lighter, you provide time for deeper exploration.

Cultivate Efficacy

Students perform at higher levels when they believe they are good at something. Provide feedback that encourages sense of efficacy.



Let the Student Lead

Students perform at higher levels when they view themselves as in control of setting goals. Allow students agency in determining focus when possible.