

Session A Key Input: Lecture 3
Sustaining Engagement
Lecture Transcript Presented by Dr Sal Consoli

Hello. In this presentation, we're going to look into how to sustain engagement in the long term. In particular, we're going to look at some strategies that teachers may use to be able to ...

support learners in remaining engaged. So what does it take to keep the students active and emotionally engaged throughout a full lesson or a full program of study? So again, I will offer some principles and possible actions that you may want to implement in your own contexts.

First of all, we need to provide our students with cognitive challenges. As teachers, you may want to ask yourselves how easy or difficult are the tasks that you design for your learners? And do you make it challenging to achieve a major accomplishment? And how much support do you offer when your students clearly struggle. Among the activities that you may want to, or strategies, I should say, that you may want to use with your students are asking students to offer feedback from their own perspective so they can look at their own work, at their own performance, and they can self assess. That way you can gauge the gap between where they're at and the challenges that they may be experiencing. You can also, as a teacher and a learner, offer some share some of your own experiences to illustrate how you dealt with some of the challenges that people may encounter in the process of using a language for academic purposes as it is the case with your students. You could also organize students into different groups where they work with different abilities and different challenges, and then they can compare their own experiences with one another.

Next, you want to make sure that you maximize the feeling of enjoyment and therefore minimize the potential for boredom. You want to ask yourself how do students enjoy the program or the particular textbook that you're using on a long term basis? And how do you detect if a student is bored? Possible actions include adapting the textbook, so that means tweaking the instructions, leaving things out, leaving things out that you would think would not be pertinent to your own students in front of you, or extending an activity if it seems to resonate with your learners. You may want to do this activity that I call a Twitter feedback. So you ask the students to write one short line about what they really enjoyed or what they really disliked about your lesson, and that way you can continue to promote what's good about your teaching methodology. And you can also read, or I'm sure you do this, but it's important to remind ourselves to read our students body language because that is very telling. It's important to make sure that the students don't just simply go through the motions and do what we tell them to do, but to check that they are actually enjoying what they do and therefore increasing the opportunities for further enjoyment in the classroom.

And next, it is important to stagger accomplishments. So you may want to ask yourselves, how aware are the students of their own goals for the lesson, but also for the overall program of study that they are enrolled on, and what progress are they making? Can the students see the progress that they are making? And what next? What kind of activities do you think will allow the students to see that they are making further progress? Now, to address these questions and these kind of problems, if you like, of long term engagement, you may want to follow the SMART goals approach. You want to make sure that your goals, whether for the

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lesson or for the entire program of study, are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant to your students, and Time bound. There has to be a clear time frame where students know that they start an activity and there is a goal and a certain outcome, hopefully a positive outcome will be achieved. And I would always recommend offering rewards, because offering a reward means valuing and recognizing your students efforts, but also encouraging them to do that again and do better and even more in future. So I hope that staggering accomplishments will increase, will foster a culture of positive thinking and positive behavior in your classrooms. Thank you.



Teaching English & Teaching IN English
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