

# News for Adjuncts

October 1, 2013



## Special Interest Notes:

- Know your students by name
- Assign student group projects
- Maintain your expectations

## Student Engagement

Community college students are as varied and needy as we are. Many of our students have jobs and family obligations in addition to class. That does not mean they do not need the same skills as every other college graduate, but it does mean they may find college a challenge. Our students need to be actively engaged in their own learning process - - we as instructors can do that.

First, we need to articulate the “why,” as well as the “what” when making assignments. Remind students how each assignment can help them reach their long-term and short-term goals. Be sure your assignments are significant.

Secondly, we can encourage student collaboration by assigning group activities (*in-class*). While our students may be very busy, they need to learn to work well with others so they are ready for success when they get to the work place.

If a student is engaged in the greater life of the college, they are more likely to see themselves as “real” students.

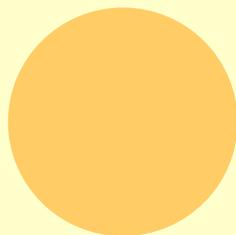
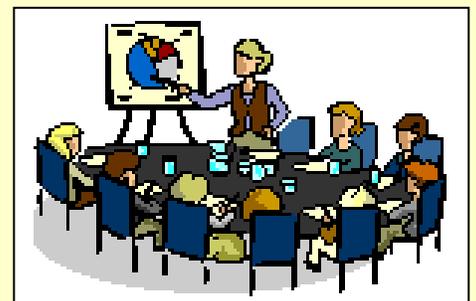
We can also establish a collaborative climate within the classroom to make each student feel part of the class discussions. Ask relevant questions and actively listen and respond to student comments. Generate a list of relevant topics and questions for each day; use them to generate classroom discussion.

If your students are still “disengaged,” it may be worthwhile to ask three or four of your most typical students for suggestions on turning the class on to the subject area. Also use your area or program coordinator for suggestions on getting the students on board.

Some students need just not know what the expectations in your classroom are. Take a bit of time at the beginning of a class to go over exactly what you expect and why. Be ready to make analogies to the workplace or a four-year institution. Remind students they have the control of their own learning!

Only you can give your students the “keys” to real learning in your field. Let each class period be an interaction between you and the students, the students with each other, and, most importantly, the students with the information needed.

Let the student engagement begin!



## Individual Highlights:

- Think through assignments
- Speak outside of class
- Be sure tone is considerate

