

easy ways to engage your students

- Be excited yourself – let it show!!!
- Put an objective based, compelling question on the board that students need to discover the answer to by the end of class.
- Give a copy of your notes with blanks. Students discover blanks while you talk. Give a prize for those that are successful.
- Challenge students by saying there will be end of discussion trivia. You could assign certain students to be recording possible questions while they listen to the lecture. You could even keep these for an extra challenge at the end of the month. You could make it competitive.
- Do something fun to introduce the topic.
- Do opinion taking surrounding the theme of the day that gets kids moving i.e. go to the left side of the room if you think ----- go to the right side of the room if you think ----
- Start the lesson with trivia questions (and prizes) about the lecture or lesson the day before - could be done individually or in groups
- Show a video about the topic
- Show an example of how your topic comes up in 'real life'
- Jigsaw teaching strategy:
 - Step 1:** Organize students into a group of 4-6 people.
 - Step 2:** Divide the day's reading or lesson into 4-6 parts, and assign one student in each group to be responsible for a different segment.
 - Step 3:** Give students time to learn and process their assigned segment independently.
 - Step 4:** Put students who completed the same segment together into an "Expert group" to talk about and process the details of their segment.
 - Step 5:** Have students return to their original "Jigsaw" groups and take turns sharing the segments they've become experts on.
 - Step 6:** Have students complete a task or a quiz that's reliant on them having understood the material from the contributions of all their group member
- Start with humour.
- Start with a shocking fact.
- Tell students at the start of the lesson what they will be expected to summarize by the end of the lesson. For example, tell students that by the end of the lesson they will need to write you a summary paragraph of photosynthesis (also called an Exit Ticket)
- Tell students at the start of the lesson that they will need to tell you three things about --- when they leave (another form of Exit Ticket)
- Give students drawing paper and ask them to doodle or cartoon the concepts that are taught that day. Require that students show it to you so that it is not a distraction but a useful tool for memory.
- Have students do a quick 30 - 60 second preview of titles, sub-titles, pictures, captions and bold words then record predictions of what the chapter will be about. Not only does this set the stage for learning but teaches important comprehension habits
- Have students fill in a graphic organizer while a lecture is happening or during reading time
- Put a timer on for your talking and tell students they will need to listen for --- minutes. Stick to the time.
- Challenge students to write down 3 questions that they thought of while reading. Take time to discuss some of these at the end of class.
- Challenge students to come up with 3 real life situations they thought of while reading. Take time to discuss some of these at the end of class.
- Everyone loves stories. Tell a story that ties into the topic of the day. Possibly pose a problem at the end of the story and after the lesson complete the story with a resolution of the problem or have students brainstorm endings given the new information learned that day.
- Bring in visual aids to engage students.
- Put new vocab on the board. Challenge students to know the definitions by the end of the lesson.
- Provide peer feedback opportunities like TTYP - turn to your partner
- Show an example of an excellent final product - give students an expectation of what they will achieve.
- Make all material accessible to all learners – this may require the info to be in audio or video form. Consider a screen reader like the Google extension "Read Aloud".