

The Practical Professor

No. 16

Quick and easy tips, questions, and suggestions for improving teaching and learning.

What Do They Know About ...?

Student Feedback Technique Series #5

This week's Student Feedback Technique (SFT) provides another double-benefit. First, it gives you a chance to focus students on what you consider the top 5 concepts/processes/skills in your course right from the beginning. Second, it gives you a picture of where the class as a whole is in relation to understanding course concepts. The latter idea is a key when practicing diagnostic-based teaching. Once you know how much students understand, you can tailor your teaching and assignments to your students' needs, not what a textbook provides for all students.

Why do this? Consider medicine. When you go to a doctor, do you want the doctor to prescribe the same activities and medicine for everyone? No, you want your doctor to pay careful attention to your symptoms and prescribe treatment based upon your needs, not some generalized group. The same applies to diagnostic-based teaching.

Oh, there is another benefit if you wish. Ask the same questions at the end of the course and you have great pre- and post-instruction information.

Process:

Ask students to

- ❖ Fill out this SFT individually in 5 – 6 minutes
- ❖ Be as complete as they can be in their responses – emphasize that there are no “right answers” – that you are merely gathering information so that you can tailor learning activities and your teaching directly to their needs
- ❖ Not worry at all if they know nothing about some, or all, of the information you have provided as you are going to teach these concepts during the semester

Procedure:

- ❖ Adapt the sheet provided to your needs, and fill in the 5 subjects
- ❖ Make sure to reiterate to students that this is not a quiz

In the next *The Practical Professor*: Tip Series #5

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What Do You Know About...?

I need your help. **Please do not put your name on this. This is not a quiz or test.** There are *no right or wrong answers*. Your answers will help me design assignments and aim my teaching at what you and your fellow students need to learn. I have listed 5 key subjects that this course covers below. Please tell me what you know about each one, as completely as possible. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers! If you know nothing about a subject, please just write "I do not know anything about this." That is fine! After all, we haven't even started the course yet.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Thank you for your input!

Also available!

Teaching

A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty

Back Issues

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

Contact your campus Teaching and Learning Consultant (TLC) or e-mail us at:

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