

The Practical Professor

No. 22

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

“What if?”- Creativity and Innovative Thinking

Reflective Practice Series #6

Welcome to the next installment of our Reflective Practice series! This series gives you a variety of ways to become a more reflective practitioner.

In our desire to get our students to understand core concepts, we often forget that what moves the world are new ideas and creative approaches to problems and issues. In this light, creativity and innovative thinking may be the most important *core concepts* that we can teach our students.

If you ask students at end of a lesson to identify some practical applications of what they are learning, you are reinforcing a good and higher-order thinking skill. But how can we help students become creative and innovative thinkers?

Questions to consider:

- How **important** a skill is creative or innovative thinking?
- How do I help my students **develop** innovative or creative thinking skills through my teaching?
- How do I **encourage** or **require** creative or innovative thinking in my teaching?
- How do I **model** or **practice** creative or innovative thinking for my students?

One idea is to ask students to come up with some **new applications**, “**what if...**” **scenarios**, or ideas related to your lesson that are so “**out there**” that they would ordinarily never consider raising them in class.

Thanks for your interest! Have a great day!

In the next *The Practical Professor: Ask The Practical Professor #5*

Also available!

Teaching

A series of practical and innovative teaching tips for college faculty

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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
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- No. 13 – Engaging Different Input Preferences
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- No. 15 – Ways to End Your Course
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- No. 17 – Create a Memorable AND Functional Syllabus
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- No. 19 – Practical Study Tips to Share with Your Students
- No. 20 – Laddering Thinking Skills
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- No. 22 – Ways and Reasons to Be Vulnerable While Teaching
- No. 23 – Using Student Groups
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- 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

Back issues of *The Teaching Top 10* and *The Practical Professor* can be found here:

<http://gwcc.libguides.com/c.php?g=57736&p=709634>