

The Practical Professor

No. 7

Quick and easy tips, tools, and ideas for improving teaching and learning.

What are Your Key Goals When Teaching?

Reflective Practice Series # 2

Welcome to the second installment of our Reflective Practice series! This series aims to give you a variety of ways of examining your beliefs about why you do what you do. The questions and exercises included will be accessible and quick to start, but they are also questions that you can reflect on and engage with for a considerable amount of time if you so choose.

1. Take the Teaching Goals Inventory (TGI), available online at

http://fm.iowa.uiowa.edu/fmi/xsl/tgi/data_entry.xsl?-db=tgi_data&-lay=Layout01&-view

Pick your *most important low level course*. Allow yourself only **3 “Essential”** goals and **3 “Very Important”** goals for the course. Yes, “3” means three – not 12! ***Proceed below only when you are done.*** Please go take the inventory now, and **do not** read ahead.

(You should be taking the Teaching Goals Inventory before reading below.)

Welcome back. Having only 3 “Essential” goals and 3 “Very Important” goals is very hard isn’t it? It is about to get harder. Drop all 3 “Very Important” goals. You cannot reasonably focus on 6 goals for each course (Want incentive? Tell your students to give you a grade each week on how well you help them achieve all 6 of these goals and publish the results publicly!). Here are some questions to consider:

- **Do your students know these are your 3 Essential goals?**
- **How do you build your lessons to focus on those 3 goals?**
- **How do you measure YOUR success at achieving those 3 goals?**

Becoming more intentional as a teacher is very hard work. The TGI helps us focus.

If you do not like all the questions on the TGI, why not form a group on campus to develop a set of questions more appropriate to your students, your institution?

In the next *The Practical Professor: Ask The Practical Professor #2*

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

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