

Ready to Learn: How To Get Your Students to Come to Class Prepared

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This is not what we are talking about.



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Would you like your students to come to class prepared? Why?

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- If your students came to class prepared:
 - How would you adjust your course?
 - How would you change the way you teach?
 - Would teaching be more enjoyable for you?

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- Why do you think students come to class unprepared?

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Prepared Students Are Not a Mirage

We can get our students to come to class prepared, but it may require a different course design.

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Interactive vs. Traditional Teaching Model

Traditional Model	Aspects of Learning	Interactive Model
Class Time	First Exposure	Class Time
Student-Alone Time	Higher order Reasoning	Student-Alone Time
Teacher-Alone Time	Teacher Response	Teacher-Alone Time

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Use of Time and Space

The Interactive Teaching Model presents a paradigm shift in how instructors and students use time and space.

We believe that shift increases the efficiency of the instructor's time and increases student learning, especially higher-level skills and other forms of significant learning.

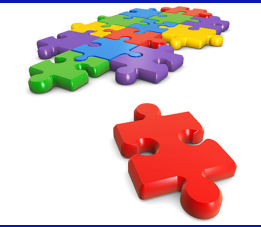
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Barbara Walvoord

Rethink Times and Spaces



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Interactive Model We Use

Class Preparation Assignments (CPAs) and Definitional Grading System

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Class Preparation Assignment (CPAs)

Reading assignments with informal writing assignments of roughly 5 to 10 questions.

Guides students' reading and prepares them for class (serves as basis for class discussion & active learning activities).

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Graded Pass-Fail Only

To earn credit for a CPA, a student must:

- Show a good faith effort on every question;
- Bring 2 copies of completed CPA (questions with answers) with 1 copy to me before class;
- Attend class to modify & expand answers, add value to class discussion, & participate in active learning activities.

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Definitional Grading System

The pedagogical assumption is that different categories of work are each important, and the teacher does not want one category to compensate for the other in any way.

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Definitional Grading System

Course Grade	Graded Work	Pass-Fail Work
A	A average	Pass \geq 90% assignments
B	B average	Pass \geq 83%
C	C average	Pass \geq 75%
D	D average	Pass \geq 65%
F	F average	Pass $<$ 65%

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Definitional Grading System

To get a particular course grade, a student must meet or exceed the standards for each category of work.

- Not additive

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More on the Definitonal Grading System

- If you use the Definitonal Grading System, have it approved by the Chair of your department and the Dean.

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More on the Definitonal Grading System

- Carefully explain the definitonal grading system and CPAs on the syllabus and in the first class. Explain it several times during the semester.
- Based on our experience of using the definitonal grading system for over twenty years, seldom does the grade on the CPAs fall below the grade on the exams, etc.

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Common Pitfalls



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Common Pitfalls

- Don't make Class Preparation Assignment (CPA) questions too easy or too hard. If they are too easy, students will simply scan the material. If they are too hard, students will become frustrated, upset, and complain.

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Common Pitfalls

- CPAs deal with first exposure to the material. They prepare students for class discussion and active learning strategies. Once students come to class prepared, you can drive for deeper, more significant, learning in class.

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Common Pitfalls

- Pay attention to what you name the class preparation assignments.
 - They are not homework; they are class preparation assignments.
 - The writing across the curriculum literature emphasizes the importance of what you call something.

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Overcoming Common Pitfalls



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Overcoming Common Pitfalls

- How do you handle the paper load of grading all the CPAs?
- What do you do with the CPAs after you grade them?

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Overcoming Common Pitfalls

- Do you give credit for the CPA if a student does not attend class?
- What if a student did not answer every question?

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Overcoming Common Pitfalls

- How do you handle students that must miss numerous classes due to college sanctioned events such as athletics?
- Do you answer CPA questions before class?
 - Remember the interactive model and the use of space and time.

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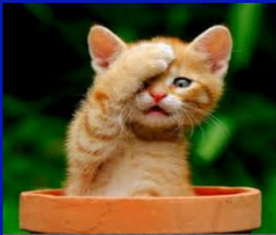
Overcoming Common Pitfalls

- Do you let students work together in preparing their CPAs?
- How do you ensure that students don't simply cut and paste CPA answers from each other?

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Covering the CPAs During Class



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Covering the CPAs During Class

- Do you cover the CPA questions in class?
- Do you cover them in a linear or non-linear fashion?

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Covering the CPAs During Class

- Should you put any of the CPA questions on quizzes and exams?
- Praise students for coming to class prepared! Remember that coming to class prepared is exceptional behavior for students. Praise and reward the behavior you want from your students.

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Covering the CPAs During Class

- Engage all your students so that all student voices are heard.
- When students come to class prepared, don't lecture as if they are unprepared.

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Your dreams
have come true!

Using the definitional grading system with CPAs will ensure that students come to class prepared.

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Students will come to class prepared.

- What do I do now?

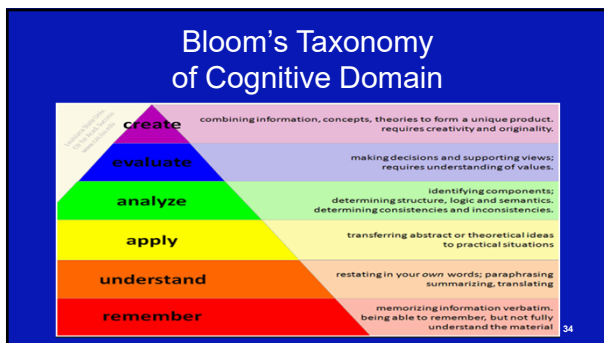
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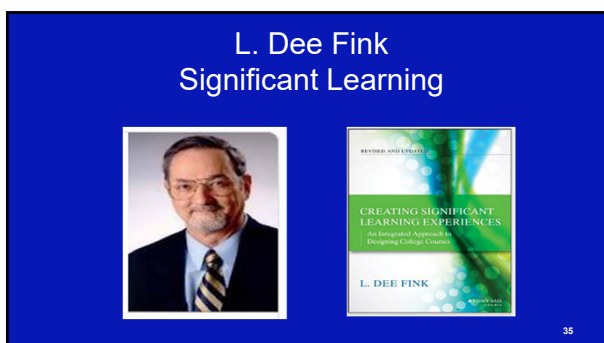
Leverage student preparation
by using active learning strategies
to move students up Bloom's Taxonomy, &
pursue other types of significant learning.

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Interactive Teaching Model
Paradigm Shift of the Use of Space and Times

- "Cover" CPAs & Use Mini-Lectures When Necessary
- Rock 'n Roll with Active Learning Activities
 - Give students experience with using what they have learned.
 - Have students actually do that which we want them to learn how to do.

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Interactive Teaching Model
Paradigm Shift of the Use of Space and Times

- Rock 'n Roll with Active Learning Strategies
 - Pursue learning goals.
 - Pursue higher-order thinking & other types of significant learning.
 - R-E-S-P-E-C-T
 - Sense of Belonging & Sense of Self-Efficacy

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Teaching For A Lifetime

This kind of stuff will invigorate you as a teacher.

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