Getting out of Your Comfort Zone to Engage Students

Michelle Meloon

106th Annual SC Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference 2021

http://bit.ly/2YS9h1Q
Michelle Meloon
Instructional Coach - Hillcrest Middle School

Certification:
Elementary
Middle Level ELA and Social Studies
Secondary Social Studies
Educational Leadership

Email: mmeloon@greenville.k12.sc.us
"That was an awesome worksheet," said no student ever.
Agenda:

- What is student engagement?
- Planning for student engagement
- Engaging strategies/activities
- Engaging technology tools

LT: I can encourage more student engagement in my classroom by using a variety of activities and technologies.
It is ALL about **relationships**.

I put the relation of a fine teacher to a student just below the relation of a mother to a son.- *Thomas Wolfe*

"Every child deserves a champion - an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." - *Rita F. Pierson*
What is Student Engagement?
Student Engagement -
the degree of attention,
curiosity, interest, optimism,
and passion that students show
when they are learning and
being taught
What do engaged students look like:

- Paying attention (alert, tracking with their eyes)
- Taking notes (particularly Cornell)
- Listening (as opposed to chatting or sleeping)
- Asking questions (content related or in a game)
- Responding to questions (whole group, small group, four corners, Socratic Seminar)
- Following requests (participating in class)
- Reacting (laughing, talking, etc.)
What do engaged students look like:

- Reading critically (with pen in hand)
- Writing to learn (creating, planning, problem solving, discussing, debating, and asking questions)
- Performing/presenting, inquiring, exploring, explaining, evaluating, and experimenting
- Interacting with other students, gesturing and moving
“Are you going to show us your bag of tricks or not?”
Planning to Engage Students

● What are the academic outcomes/goals that you hope to achieve?
● What strategy or strategies (whole group, cooperative groups, PBL, gallery walks) will help you achieve that outcome and engage students in learning?
● Finally, what tools (white boards, index cards, worksheets, posters, videos) can be used with that strategy?

Technology is ONE tool that can be used. Don’t use technology unless it is the best tool to help you reach your academic goal.
Students need to be involved in the lesson

Don't let students just sit and listen for more than 20 minutes
➢ Use dry erase boards
➢ Have students stand up by their desk when they agree with a statement or answer
➢ Play 4 corners where students move to different corners of the room based on their answer to questions
➢ Use digital **graphic organizers**
➢ Do relay games by rows/tables when reviewing
  - **Pause, Star, Rank**
  - **5 Clue Challenge**
  - **Tic Tac Toe template**
  - **Google Drawings meme creator**
Engaging Activities

- Gallery Walks
- Charades
What do students say about relationships?

**Song and Movement**

**Scale Factor Rap**

**Revolutionary War Battle Movements**
GROUP WORK

- Give careful thought to grouping size and who's in each group
  - How will this be determined?
    - Students' previous performance
    - Interests
    - Strengths and weaknesses
    - Randomly
- How will students move to their group?
- What do YOU do while students are working in groups? What roles will students have within the group?
- What about group norms?
- How will students be evaluated?
Other Ideas to Try

- Chat Stations
- Wastepaper Basketball
- Tickets - give tickets for participation, preparedness, etc. Draw at end of week for candy
- Content Scoot
- Graffiti Wall/Board
- Text Messages - ask students to write a summary of key learning in txt msg form
- Small-group Brain Drain - in groups with chart paper and markers, have students list everything they can recall from lesson and underline 3 most important things
Engaging Technology Tools
Technology Tools

- Quizlet
- Poll Everywhere
- Gimkit
- Socrative
- Quizizz
- Kahoot!
- Flipgrid
- Flippity
- AnswerGarden
More Technology Tools

- EDpuzzle
- EverFi
- Screencastify
- Google Drawings
- TED-Ed
- PowToon
- Adobe Spark
Summarizing:
What is one idea that you are interested in trying in your classroom?
References


References