



Aligning with Students' Learning Capabilities

Our webinar series emphasizes “starting where the learner is” – as opposed to “starting over their heads” with content that is totally unfamiliar to them. Webinars and the resources posted at our website also seek to make you aware of the impact of factors such as generational diversity in our classrooms, and the importance of making an extra effort with “first generation students” – those who are the first from their families to attend college, as well as with international students, and those with disabilities of various types.

Success with today's students also requires recognition of a variety of student learning styles and the benefits of our aligning our teaching styles with them. Over-dependence on lecturing and other instructor-centered strategies often engenders a passive learning attitude on their part, converting them into spectators, rather than encouraging their becoming active players in their learning. Effective instructors regularly utilize student-centered strategies that:

- Recognize that students learn only 10% of what they only read, but 80% of what they personally experience and 90% of what they teach others.
- Allow students to apply their existing knowledge base developed in earlier education, work and other life experiences. Good teaching is essentially a matter of fostering connections in students' minds to the new material you are presenting.
- Create healthy risk for students and ourselves that overrides the comfortable trap of teaching only as you have been taught.
- Use groups of two or three students to focus on key concepts and report back to the entire class on their findings reduces inhibitions against class participation. Expanding the group size over time will lead to richer class-wide discussions and other benefits.
- Employ role-playing that fosters richer student understanding of the multiple perspectives inherent in most learning issues.
- Use problem-based learning [PBL] to foster critical thinking skills and promote continuity in their achievement of learning outcomes;
- Leverage field work and other student-centered learning activities foster personal interest, motivation, and commitment, achieve at higher levels of Bloom's Taxonomy.
- Integrate student presentations that not only increase content retention and higher level learning, but self-efficacy that extends well past the classroom.
- Provide the instructor an opportunity to evaluate students in a richer environment, assess genuine learning, and identify areas requiring additional attention.
- Make the teaching and learning enterprise a lot more fun for everybody!

Upcoming webinars will enable you to expand your understanding of these active learning principles and begin to become comfortable with strategies that promote active learning and methods of assessing student learning in a more authentic way. Joining us for these lively

webinars will help you deepen your students' learning, and increase your personal rewards from teaching.

Webinar Update: All webinar topics [see <http://www.adjunctsuccess.net/webinars.php>] will be presented multiple times, between now and June 30, 2009. If you miss the opportunity to attend a particular webinar topic and need to view it right away, e-mail lyons@adjunctsuccess.net to receive access to an archived recording.

Schedule of Upcoming Webinars: Following please find the webinars that are available now for your registration [see directions in the welcome e-mail that you received from Ray Carpenter, or a FAQs on the AdjunctSuccess.net website]. Note: all times listed are Eastern. A recording of each webinar is e-mailed automatically to those who 1. Register for it in advance, and 2. Log-in during the session. Webinars will not be offered during the holiday period.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Thu., Jan. 29, 7:00 pm | The Adjunct Professor: Formulating a Strategy for Success |
| Sat., Jan. 31, 9:00 am | Managing Examinations Effectively |
| Sat., Jan. 31, 10:30 am | Employing Authentic Assessment in Your Teaching |
| Mon., Feb. 2, 8:30 pm | Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching |
| Tue., Feb. 3, 8:30 pm | Managing Examinations Effectively |
| Wed., Feb. 4, 8:30 pm | Employing Authentic Assessment in Your Teaching |
| Thu., Feb. 5, 8:30 pm | Delivering Effective Teaching Presentations |
| Sat., Feb. 7, 9:00 am | Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching |
| Sat., Feb. 7, 10:30 am | Infusing Technology into Your Teaching |
| Mon., Feb. 9, 8:30 pm | Employing Authentic Assessment in Your Teaching |
| Tue., Feb. 10, 8:30 pm | Achieving Exemplary Student Retention |
| Wed., Feb. 11, 8:30 pm | Managing Examinations Effectively |
| Thu., Feb. 12, 8:30 pm | Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching |
| Sat., Feb. 14, 9:00 am | Achieving Exemplary Student Retention |
| Sat., Feb. 14, 10:30 am | Employing Authentic Assessment in Your Teaching |
| Mon., Feb. 16, 8:30 pm | Achieving Exemplary Student Retention |
| Tue., Feb. 17, 8:30 pm | Implementing Active Learning Strategies in Your Teaching |
| Wed., Feb. 18, 8:30 pm | Infusing Technology into Your Teaching |

Additional Resources for AdjunctSuccess members: As mentioned above, a rich set of printable resources is posted at www.AdjunctSuccess.net to help you in critical aspects of your teaching. Also in this **Members Area** is an alphabetized [by topic] compilation of websites, each focused on a teaching or classroom management topic. Explore these resources now, and begin saving preparation time and enjoying your teaching much sooner.

Troubleshooting Technical Problems: As with any technology dependent resource, AdjunctSuccess members occasionally experience technical glitches. In most cases, your first step in troubleshooting problems with webinar registration or participation is the help desk of Elluminate, the webinar software that we use. Call 866.388.8674, then select option #2.

Also: Inside the "Members Login" area of AdjunctSuccess.net appears a link to a set of frequently-asked questions [FAQs] to facilitate your use of our resources. Also at the home page, you will see a link to testimonials submitted by our members that might help you better understand the mission, features, and usability of our resources. Please submit your suggestions for either feature to lyons@adjunctsuccess.net.