



OCTOBER 2020 | ISSUE 6

#STUDENTLEARNINGMATTERS

Enhancing Content Delivery to Increase Learning and Retention

ENHANCED LECTURES

“LECTURING IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF STANDING IN FRONT OF A CLASS AND RECITING WHAT YOU KNOW. A CLASSROOM LECTURE IS A SPECIAL FORM OF COMMUNICATION... NO MATTER WHAT YOUR TOPIC, YOUR DELIVERY, AND MANNER OF SPEAKING IMMEASURABLY INFLUENCE YOUR STUDENTS’ ATTENTIVENESS AND LEARNING.”
-BARBARA GROSS DAVIS, TOOLS FOR TEACHING

Ask Yourself...What do you want your students to gain as a result of your classroom lectures? If you are looking to enhance your lectures, try some of the tips below.

TIPS TO ENHANCE LECTURES

(CLICK ON NUMBERS FOR LINKS)

1

Openings are Key - Engage your students from the start. Consider beginning your lecture by presenting a story, puzzle, picture, etc. to get students engaged and thinking about the content for the class session.

2

Class Outline/Agenda - Provide an outline (skeletal notes) or agenda for the class session so students know what to expect and are prepared for the class content.

3

One Main Topic- Make sure your notes, examples, and content for the class all focus on one main topic.

Students can generally only focus on one thing, and only in 10-15 min. increments. If you need to cover multiple topics in a class session, break them up with activities and/or discussions (e.g., Bookend Approach).

4

Lecture Pauses- Create intentional breaks/pauses in your lectures to ask questions, check for understanding, clarify misconceptions, etc. These pauses give you a chance to breathe and help students clarity and retain information.



5

Visuals- Incorporate visual aids into your lectures. Research shows students recall 65% of information taught with visual aids and only 10% of information that is solely presented verbally.



6

Class Recap- End each lecture with a summary of major points you discussed that day. Ask students questions for review or tell them to ask you two questions based upon your content that day.



7

Pacing/Tone- Your voice has a large impact on how students engage in a lecture. Slow down to emphasize key points. Use a different tone to highlight important aspects.



8

Notetaking- Consider guiding students on how to take notes during your lectures. How can they use the resources you provide to be successful?

Remember communication is important. Communicate to your students the purpose of these enhanced lecture components, and help them understand their value for learning and retention.