



HOW TO ENGAGE STUDENTS IN TEACHING LEARNING PROCESS?

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'No one wants to learn today'

- Tag line from every mouth. Is it true?

Ninety percent says 'yes' but I don't have any reason to believe in it. Everyone wants to learn but they haven't proper link to do it. Before discussing on it we have to define what education is?

What is Education?

As we seek to refine and reform today's system of education, I would like to ask, "What is education?" Our answers may provide insights that get to the heart of what matters for 21st century children and adults alike.

It is important to step back for, standardized testing, and teacher evaluation. So I decided to quote some of the greatest philosophers, poets, educators, historians, theologians, politicians, and world leaders, I found answers that should not only exist in our history books, but also remain at the core of current education dialogue.

As you read through the following quotes, you'll discover common threads that unite the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical aspects of education. For me, good education facilitates the development of creativity, empathy, curiosity, sociability, reliance, self awareness, integrity and resourcefulness that guides us through life.

Which quotes resonate most with you? What images of education come to your mind? How can we best integrate the wisdom of the ages to address today's most pressing education challenges?

What is Education? Answers from 5th Century BC to the 21st Century.

1. The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done. -- Jean Piaget, 1896-1980, Swiss developmental psychologist, philosopher.
2. An education isn't how much you have committed to memory, or even how much you know. It's being able to differentiate between what you know and what you don't.-- Anatole France, 1844-1924, French poet, novelist.
3. The object of education is to teach us to love beauty. -- Plato, 424 – 348 BC, philosopher mathematician.
4. The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education -- Martin Luther King, Jr., 1929-1968, pastor, activist, humanitarian.
5. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school. Albert Einstein, 1879-1955, physicist.
6. It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it. -- Aristotle, 384-322 BC, Greek philosopher, scientist.
7. Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to appreciate life. -- Brigham Young, 1801-1877, religious leader.
8. Education is freedom. – Paulo Freire, 1921-1997, Brazilian educator, philosopher.
9. Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.-- George Washington Carver, 1864-1943, scientist, botanist, educator.
10. Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. -- Malcolm Forbes, 1919-1990, publisher, politician.
11. No one has yet realized the wealth of sympathy, the kindness and generosity hidden in the soul of a child. The effort of every true education should be to unlock that treasure. – Emma Goldman, 1869 – 1940, political activist, writer.
12. Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another. -- Gilbert K. Chesterton, 1874-1936, English writer, theologian, poet, philosopher.
13. Education is the movement from darkness to light. -- Allan Bloom, 1930-1992, philosopher, classicist, and academician.
14. Education is learning what you didn't even know you didn't know. -- Daniel J. Boorstin, 1914-2004, historian, professor, attorney.



15. The aim of education is the knowledge, not of facts, but of values. -- William S. Burroughs, 1914-1997, novelist, essayist, painter.
16. The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives. -- Robert M. Hutchins, 1899-1977, educational philosopher.
17. Education is the key to success in life, and teachers make a lasting impact in the lives of their students. -- Solomon Ortiz, 1937-, former U.S. Representative-TX.
18. The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in good education. -- Plutarch, 46-120AD, Greek historian, biographer, essayist.
19. Education is a shared commitment between dedicated teachers, motivated students and enthusiastic parents with high expectations. Bob Beauprez, 1948-, former member of U.S. House of Representatives-CO.
20. The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child's home. – William Temple, 1881-1944, English bishop, teacher.
21. Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them. -- John Ruskin, 1819-1900, English writer, art critic, philanthropist.
22. The great end of education is to discipline rather than to furnish the mind; to train it to the use of its own powers rather than to fill it with the accumulation of others. – Tyron Edwards, 1809-1894, theologian.
23. Education is like a lantern which lights your way in a dark alley. – Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, 1918-2004, President of the United Arab Emirates for 33 years.
24. Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or self-confidence. -- Robert Frost, 1874-1963, poet.
25. My mother said I must always be intolerant of ignorance, but understanding of illiteracy. That some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and more intelligent than college professors. -- Maya Angelou, 1928-, author, poet.

Apart from all these long list of traditional and modern view; what is Education? If I want to define it in few words – 'Education is learning from curiosity'. Curiosity is a mother of all inventions. It is always blame that new generation hasn't any interest in literature and books. Is it true? No way. It is generation of technology you cannot convince them by giving elephant toy. If you are able to create curiosity no one can denied you. We can quote here an example of Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling. You can find such a long queue outside bookstore after publishing each part and it is surprising that most of youngsters. It is not that no one wants to learn but you have to be an amiable source for them.

How to Engage Students in Teaching Learning Process?

When we think of student's engagement in learning activities, it is often convenient to understand engagement with an activity as being represented by good behavior (i.e. behavioral engagement), positive feelings (i.e. emotional engagement), and, above all, student thinking (i.e. cognitive engagement) (Fredricks, 2014). This is because students may be behaviorally and/or emotionally invested in a given activity without actually exerting the necessary mental effort to understand and master the knowledge, craft, or skill that the activity promotes.

In light of this, research suggests that considering the following interrelated elements when designing and implementing learning activities may help increase student engagement behaviorally, emotionally, and cognitively, thereby positively affecting student learning and achievement.

Have You Ever Tried to?

- Tell a youngster how to tie his shoe?
- Lecture on their so called rude behavior?
- Get an 8th grade class to verify a math problem by writing out the explanation?

Of course you have. And in each situation, learning was superficial until the learner was actively engaged. Teaching that emphasizes active engagement helps students process and retain information. It leads to self-questioning, deeper thinking, and problem solving. Engagement strategies like repetition, trial and error, and posing questions move the brain into active and constructive learning. And such activities can lead to higher student achievement.

So where does a teacher begin?

Preparation

Preparation is one of the most essential facets for teacher. But you say I need not to prepare. I know everything. But preparing classes that actively engage students requires a lot of planning. First, the teacher must prepare the lecture or other



type of instruction. Then, he or she must select learning activities that support the content of the instruction and engage students. Here are five steps teachers should follow:

1. Thoroughly understand the topic.
2. Identify teaching objectives and strategies that engage students and build understanding.
3. Ask yourself these planning questions:
 - a. What is the goal?
 - b. What order does the teaching need to follow?
 - c. What do the students already know?
 - d. What do I want them to learn?
4. Prepare the lecture or instruction of the concepts and skills, based on your goals.
5. Construct processing/learning activities that match the concepts, skills, and goals.

Delivery

To engage students, the teacher must do more than lecture. While teaching the concepts and skills, the teacher must help students draw on their own experiences to build their own arena on which they can enact new ideas. When students are actively engaged, they focus on what is being taught.

Because the most effective teaching takes place in "chunks," it's best to teach new information or concepts in 7- to 10-minute segments followed by a processing activity.

After teaching several segments, the teacher can use a longer processing activity. This activity should be tied tightly to the concepts or skills previously taught so that it builds understanding.

Processing Activities

A processing activity is an activity that causes students to pose questions, manipulate information, and relate the new learning to what they already know. Such engagements reinforce the learning and help move the learning to the long-term memory banks.

A processing activity can be as simple as a 60-second jotting down of the important points just covered, telling your table partner three things that you just learned, or expressing something in a song. Some examples of longer processing activities are:

- Designing a concept map.
- Creating an outline.
- Writing a story problem.
- Making up a different ending to a story.
- Designing mock trials.
- Conducting an experiment in a science lab.
- Measuring the length of the hallways with triangles.

Teacher Should be Role Models

“I like a teacher who gives you something
to take home to think about besides homework.”
~Lily Tomlin

Teachers who inspire know that teaching is like cultivating a garden and those who would have nothing to do with them must never attempt to gather flowers. Teachers mold the lives that they influence. Lesson learned from teachers remain with their students throughout life. Teachers that can break down barriers and reach into the souls of the students that they are responsible for do not get the recognition or gratitude they have earned. Many teachers are exhausted from their workload and responsibilities. They have their own families, financial and life stresses that challenge them along with everyone else. Teachers need encouragement and support from the community to feel that their devotion to students is appreciated.

Socrates was an example of a good teacher. He considered himself a learner as well as a teacher. For Socrates, love and friendship were the proper contexts for Socrates saw himself only as a catalyst. He felt it was not his teaching, but actually the power of the divine which enabled the person he was talking with to improve himself.



In India 5th September is observed as Teacher's Day. 5th September is the birthday of a great teacher Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan who became the president of India in 1962; some of his students and friends approached him and requested him to allow them to celebrate 5th of September, his Birthday. In reply, Dr. Radhakrishnan said, "Instead of celebrating my birthday separately, it would be my proud privilege if September 5 is observed as Teachers' day". The request shows Dr. Radhakrishnan's love for the teaching profession.

A student during his school life up to 12 spends more than 25,000 hours in the school campus. His life is more influenced by the teachers and the school environment. Therefore, the school must have the best of teachers with ability to teach and love teaching and build moral qualities. Teachers should become role models. Similarly, the student must be alert to build himself with best of qualities and to get ignited with a vision for his or her future. Not only does the student learn, but the teacher shapes his life with great dreams and aims. The education and learning process has to culminate in the creation of professional capability leading to confidence and will power to make a design, to make a product, to make a system, bravely combating many problems.

Some examples of teacher strategies and student processes or products that actively engage the learner are:

- Establish cognitive / behavioral objectives for student learning.
- Begin with a provocative question, anecdote, or current event--and how it relates to the content.
- Ask someone in the class to summarize what happened in the last session.
- Decide what is essential, what is important, and what is helpful (what would be nice).
- Plan a lecture to cover less than the entire period.
- Divide the lecture into discrete segments and follow the standard speech structure.
- Lecture from notes or an outline, rather than a complete text.
- Be conversational; speak naturally; be yourself (or your best self).
- Create a safe and better learning environment for your students.
- Explore students' ideas through using 'open' questions.
- Encourage students to put knowledge into their own words (and offer them new vocabulary to accommodate new ideas).
- Press the students to elaborate and justify their views, e.g. 'How did you know that?', 'Why?'
- Allow students extended turns to express their thoughts and reveal their misunderstandings.
- Hold back demonstrations or explanations until the ideas of some students have been heard.
- Use whole class discussion to help students see where their study of a topic is coming from and where it is going.
- At least sometimes, allow students' comments to shift the direction of a discussion (and even, perhaps, of a lesson!)
- 'Model' ways of using language to present rational arguments, so that students can learn by example.
- Vary your pacing and voice.
- Use gestures to emphasize points.
- Use the board (slides/overheads) to reinforce your points visually.
- Don't talk while you write.
- Explicitly request and encourage questions.
- Be aware of how your behavior and comments can set the tone for questioning.
- Make sure everyone hears the question. Clarify questions.
- Be diplomatic when students raise tangential, overly-complicated questions, or persistently ask questions just to be asking.
- Get regular feedback.
- Use eye contact as a tool for continuous feedback.
- Conduct a midterm course review.
- Borrow students' class notes from time to time.
- Arrange to have your lecture videotaped.
- Make your grading and testing policies clear on the first day of class.

You said that you have all qualities and have already demonstrated all ideas which you have mentioned above and yet students are not leaning than what makes students to learn. It is an era of knowledge. We can't teach them by command or order. And it is human psychology if we put notice board outside the room "don't peep into the room" and then what happened; all peeped into the room who passed by there. So we should use reverse psychology. We should never say do that and don't. Teacher should be perfect model for them. Narrate some real stories from great personalities and involve students indirectly.



Once I was narrating a story. Dog was one of the characters. I asked them indirectly about all opposite gender of the characters but when they reached up to dog they haven't any idea. Then I asked them have you ever seen movie "Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi"? Eighty five percent students gave positive answer then slowly I led them toward the scene where Anushka Sharma- protagonist of the movie uttered the word. Students recall their memory and caught the word 'Bitches'. I could also simply informed them about it I could also use other example rather than movie but I didn't do it because students can learn early when it is serve in their favorite dish and make it last long impression on their mind. They can't forget it. I observed that parents always ordered their children not to see television and ask them for reading. But my simple question is that – Is there book only way to get knowledge? No way. We can quote here one more example- once I got two proxy periods I reached the class but students have no mood to learn. So I led them computer lab and made them to see Hindi movie. Before starting movie I ask them to note English word which was spoken by characters. At the end of an hour movie students could note average 110 English words and also could judge their hindi meaning through the dialogue. Thus, we can convert negative energy to great passion of learning. After that students became habitual and they followed this method at home also. Definitely it increases curiosity in the mind of students.

It is just one example- drama, stories, music and songs also can do best. Drama helps children to activate language and have fun. Using drama activities has clear advantages for language learning. It encourages children to speak and give them the chance to communicate. Drama involves children at many levels – through their bodies, mind, emotions, languages, and social interaction. It builds confidence in children. Music and songs are also parts of everyday life. In the car, at home, at sporting events, at the time of celebration, in theatres we are surrounded by music. Listening can reach early to us and it does also provide last long impact. So teacher should be facilitates for developing the students' abilities, love his teaching profession and his students, motivate students to learn. Enrich and upgrade his knowledge and skills with the help and use of technologies and anchorage the students to do so. Teacher should have an energetic, cheerful and open- minded attitude. Teacher should have a skill to integrate technologies in teaching- learning. Teacher should also create an interactive environment among the students. Teacher should build friendly and free relationship with the students so that the students can freely express their views, disagreements and opinions etc.

In summary, when students are actively engaged in their learning, they are processing and retaining information and using higher order thinking. When teachers design activities that promote active engagement, they are reinforcing student learning, keeping students interested and on task, and making learning relevant and fun. Remember, young adolescents want to do things and will do things. Capitalize on that in ways that reinforce their learning.