

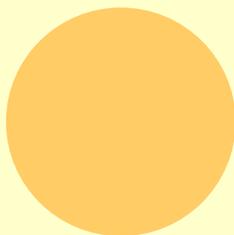
News for Adjuncts

May 1, 2014



Special Interest Notes:

- Show it matters
- Make relevance to future clear
- Show you care



Individual Highlights:

- Keep them in school
- Students want good jobs
- Education has REAL value
- Connect with your class

Retention

We all know our students may want to make much money at good jobs - - most are not shy about letting us know that. It is also no secret that education opens many doors - - further in the academy and in the workplace. To help everyone succeed, we need to do as much as we can in the classroom to keep the students learning and growing.

First, the students need to know *why* they are taking your class. Please do not let “it’s a requirement” be your answer (or your attitude). Examine the requirements for a workplace-readiness or transfer degree and determine the benefit of each class to the student. That becomes your answer - -or your theory if they do not ask overtly.

Secondly, be sure your students see that you care about their success in your class and beyond (whether the next class in a series, further on in the academy, or in the workplace). Students who can articulate the emotional and scholastic support your class provides can visualize themselves as lifelong learners. We need to question *what* or *how* we teach if students cannot make the connection. Be sure you are convinced of the significance of your course, or you will not be able to communicate that significance to the students.

You may also want to emphasize the significance of each lesson learned - - again, it is difficult to communicate if you are not convinced yourself. To make the sacrifices necessary to stay

in school and thrive beyond the present semester, students need to be reminded that they are learning (and that what they are learning is *important* to them). Many students think of any “required” class as something they have to “get through” rather than as a real base for learning. You can help you students take the “long view” when articulating how they can use what you are teaching throughout their lives.

Keeping students in class and in school is a gift to them and to our society; as students mature, they can apply what they have learned. Enthusiastic teaching is only one way to develop enthusiastic learners, but it is a good way. Show your students that you care about what they are learning, and they will better appreciate the value of your class and their own educations. Students can be very perceptive - -let them see you care about your subject area and them as students.

Encourage students to take their own education seriously by getting involved in your class and beyond!

