

Student Motivation

Extrinsic Motivation

- Grades
- Parental approval
- Earning potential of a career
- Rewards

Intrinsic Motivation

- fascination with the subject
- a sense of calling to it
- a sense of its relevance to life and the world
- a sense of accomplishment in mastering it

Intrinsic Motivation can result from these student desires:

Student Desires	Category	What to do
Control	Personal	create assignments with self-determined components (choose your own paper topics, answer two out of three questions, etc.)
Competence		create assignments that are challenging, but not too difficult
Connectedness	Social	connect with your students and encourage them to connect with one another
Sharing		have students contribute to a shared learning experience and recognize them when they do

Create a STUDENT-CENTERED classroom!

Student-centered environments pay careful attention to the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and beliefs that learners bring to the educational setting. Teachers must realize that new knowledge is built on existing knowledge—students are not blank slates. Therefore, teachers need to uncover the incomplete understandings, false beliefs and naïve renditions of concepts that students have when they begin a course. If these are ignored, students may develop understandings very different from what the teacher intends them to gain.

This allows you to connect with students, relate the material to them and their lives, create coursework with which they can succeed... all essential components of motivation!!!

Strategies for Motivating Students:

- Become a role model for student interest
- Get to know your students (be learner-centered)
- Use real-world examples & applications freely
- Use a variety of active-learning activities
- Set realistic performance goals
- Place appropriate emphases on testing & grading
- Be free with praise and constructive with criticism
- Give students as much control over their own education as possible
- Allow them to build on their accomplishments (start easy, build to more difficult)

Resources on Motivating Students

Web Resources

- Vanderbilt CFT Teaching Guide on Motivating Students
<http://cft.vanderbilt.edu/teaching-guides/interactions/motivating-students/>
- Motivating Students, from *Tools for Teaching* by Barbara Gross Davis
<http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/motivate.html>
- Motivating Students from On the Cutting Edge - Professional Development for Geoscience Faculty (National Association of Geoscience Teachers)
<http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/affective/motivation.html>
- Derek Bruff's Blog Posts (CFT Assistant Director)
<http://derekbruff.com/site/blog/category/student-motivation/>

Books (available in CFT library)

- Bain, K. *What the Best College Teachers Do*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2004.
- McKeachie, W. J. *Teaching Tips*. (12th ed.) Lexington, Mass.: Heath, 2006.