

CHECKLIST: THE KEYS TO ENGAGEMENT

How do I get every student to engage in learning activities?

<u>DO</u> USE <i>INTERNAL</i> MOTIVATORS LIKE:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Autonomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide a small array of <u>choices</u> that engage students' interests and varying levels of challenge 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mastery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Help students continually advance toward higher levels of performance through feedback, reflection, and practice. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give a rationale of <u>why</u> something is worth doing and/or a deeper purpose for doing it (see also Relevance). 	<input type="checkbox"/>

Source: *Pursuing Greatness: Empowering Teachers to Take Charge of Their Professional Growth*

Note: Be wary of *external* motivators such as:

- Rewards (grades, gold stickers, and prizes)
- Consequences (demerits, detention, and loss of privileges)

Using carrots and sticks to motivate learning often backfires, producing diminishing returns over time by convincing students that learning is drudgery and something they must endure while they wait to pursue more fulfilling endeavors.

Instead: Ask yourself, “What is the task?” and “Is it a task worth doing?”

- If we resort to bribes and rewards to engage students, it “conveniently spares us from asking hard questions about *why* we are asking people to do things that are devoid of interest in the first place” - Alfie Kohn, 1999 (*Pursuing Greatness*, p. 100).

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