

Engagement: **Content Specific Examples**

How to Engage Students (Content Specific Examples)

Determine your focus:

- **Learning Targets and Success Criteria:** In a science class, use the "Expert Groups" strategy for a lesson on ecosystems. Divide students into groups; assign each group a specific type of ecosystem (forest, desert, ocean), and have them research and present their findings to the class.
- **Connecting to student background knowledge/interests/current events:** In a social studies class, when discussing historical events, use current events, and have partners compare past revolutions to current global protests or movements for change.

Identify what and when:

Beginning:

- **Captivating focusing activity:** In a business class, employ the "30-15-5" strategy, to get partners to sum up business case studies. Partner 1 talks for 30 seconds about details of a case study; partner 2 expands up on the case study, and partner 1 sums up the case study.
- **Relationship building:** In a health class, use the "Talking Chips" technique for discussing healthy habits. Each student can share a habit using a talking chip, promoting an inclusive and participatory environment.
- **Optimal use of time:** Efficiently manage instructional time, maintaining momentum to prevent disengagement and increased misbehaviors.

Middle:

- **Effective routines and procedures:** In an English class, integrate the "Think-Pair-Share" strategy during the study of a novel's themes, where students think individually, discuss with a partner, and then share their insights with the class.
- **Collaboration and differentiation**
 - In a social studies class, use the "Jigsaw" strategy for teaching about different civilizations. Assign students to expert groups focused on specific civilizations, and then reshuffle groups to share their knowledge.
 - In an English class, optimize instructional time by seamlessly integrating the "Think-Pair-Share" strategy throughout the year after it has been explicitly taught. Introduce a thought-provoking passage from a literary text. Then, allocate 15 minutes for students to individually reflect on its meaning and implications. Follow this with a 10-minute "Think-Pair" phase, where students discuss their interpretations in pairs. Finally, in a 5-minute "Share" session, select pairs to share their combined insights with the class, generating rich discussion and engagement while efficiently managing time.
 - In a history class, employ the "Gallery Walk" technique to seamlessly transition between different historical periods. As students move to different stations representing specific eras, they can discuss key events and then collectively share insights, smoothly transitioning from one topic to the next while maintaining engagement and momentum.

- **Smooth transitions:** In middle school math class, the teacher uses Flexible Groups (Dynamic Learning Stations) to shift between math activities. Stations for tasks like problem-solving and practicing equations are set up. A timer on the board, say 7 minutes, signals transitions. Students finish and move to the next station when the timer ends. This visual cue ensures efficient, interruption-free transitions and effective time management.
- **Questioning:** Balance participation through questioning strategies, ensuring all students contribute.
- **Writing and feedback:** Integrate writing activities that encourage critical thinking and provide timely, specific feedback to guide understanding.

End:

- **Effective lesson closure:** In an English class, have students complete an exit ticket by having students write down the main theme of a literature piece they discussed, and then share their thoughts in pairs before sharing with the class.
- **Visible evidence of learning:** In a business class, use "Talking Chips" for a debate on business ethics, allowing students to present arguments and counterarguments using the chips, ensuring balanced participation.
- **Guidance for future learning:** In a health class, have students write down one thing they learned about healthy nutrition and one question they have about making dietary changes using the "Exit Ticket" strategy. Use the exit tickets to guide future instruction around healthy nutrition.