

Engaging Note Taking

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Teaching often includes giving a presentation for students to take notes but let's face it, note-taking can be very dull. With the development of new teaching methods, teachers are slowly moving away from basic lectures. However, providing students with basic concepts and background knowledge do still deem note taking necessary. With a little technology magic, there are many ways to “spice” up your presentation style and engage your students while they take notes.

Amp up your presentation using the following ideas:

- Adding pictures or memes
- Adding videos or gifs
- Walking Notes
 - This is a low tech option but it gets students up and moving
 - Create your presentation as usual and then print off each slide and hang it around the room.
 - Students then will walk around the room and take notes
 - Make sure to space out the slides and it works best if the notes can either be taken in any order or you provide them with a fill-in-the-blank version of the notes so that you don't have all of your class crowding around one slide
- Interactive presentations
 - ✱ This allows your students to actively interact with you or their notes during your presentation
 - Slides Q & A - [see Creating Interactive Slide Presentations post](#)
 - Allows for an interactive digital discussion to occur during your presentation
 - You can choose to address or ignore questions as they appear privately on your screen
 - Pear Deck Add-on for Slides - [see Slides & Pear Deck post](#)
 - Provides teachers with real-time data on student understanding
 - You can create formative assessments or check for understanding
- Flipped Classroom Video Notes
 - Don't want to waste time presenting notes in class? Create video notes for students to listen to for homework

When someone is not listening in my class



- Create your presentation like normal then record yourself giving the presentation using a screen recorder
 - You can either just include your voice or show your face as well
- For screen recorders, I prefer [Screencastify](#) (a Chrome extension) or [screencast-o-matic](#) (a download)
- You can also use iMovie if you would like to add some cool effects
 - For an easy iMovie I recommend recording your video using a screen recorder and then importing the video into iMovie but you can also fully create your presentation in iMovie
 - Open iMovie
 - Click import media  and choose your video
 - Now you can add an intro and closer, background music, and transitions
 - [iMovie example](#) - the beginning and end (14:22) have iMovie effects and the video is a screen recording of one of my presentations

General Presentation Do's and Don'ts:

- Pick a large and legible font (they need to be able to read it from a distance)
- Don't overdo the amount of text per slide
 - The old rule of thumb is 7 bullet points with 3 words each or 3 bullet points with 7 words each
 - Although I don't follow this exactly I use it as a guideline to make sure my text is concise.
- Animation can be a great way to keep your students engaged or to draw their attention to something on your screen
 - Careful not to overdo it though! For example, every line of text should not be animated.
 - Apple's Keynote is an awesome product for animation
 - To animate text or an image highlight it and click animate in the top right corner
 - Then choose to build in or out an animation or create an action
- Changing the color of your font to help emphasize a point, vocab word, or titles are a great way of catching your student's eyes
- For a screen recording make sure your students can clearly hear your voice - i.e. no background noise, consider using an external microphone, etc.