Teaching Tip

Plan your recitations, but be flexible!

When preparing to lead a discussion or recitation section, it is worthwhile to plan ahead to prepare material that may have been covered in the main text. Instead of relying only on your students’ questions to guide class time, prepare a list of questions or example problems that you can answer in the section, or review lecture notes covered in the main text. In the recitation, ask the students of questions — in other words, ask important points that they missed, and also invite a lively classroom discussion.

Remember to be prepared to adjust the time you spend on a particular topic, since the students are participating in the discussion, you will become clear what they need to spend time on.

— Beverly Bailey, Lead Teaching Fellow (Chemistry)

CTI Workshops and Gatherings

Effective Inquiry
March 3, 10:00 – 12:00pm (208 Butler)

How can we apply the principles of mindfulness to enhance learning? Held the first Thursday of each month, these sessions provide an introduction to mindfulness and contemporary approaches to classroom pedagogy. Participants are given personalized feedback on strengths and areas to continue working on. Registration is limited to 12.

Framing of Mind/Languages of Assessment
March 2, 2016 – 208b Butler

What are the ways in which instructors frame students’ achievements and learning? How do instructors’ perceptions influence their assessment and feedback practices? How do students perceive these framing practices? In this session, we will take a closer look at how instructors frame student learning experiences.

Vocing Feedback: Providing Audio Feedback on Student Writing
Thursday, March 3, 1:00 – 4:00pm (NH Hamilton)

Providing formative feedback is vital to helping students improve. This workshop will explore the practice of using audio feedback to enhance student engagement and response. Participants will learn about the benefits of recording and delivering audio feedback, and how to use an easy-to-use and affordable audio recording technology. Following the session, participants will have a chance to practice using audio feedback with their own writing.

CTL Workshops and Gatherings

Stimulating Discussions: Student Participation & Class Engagement
March 2, 2016 – 8th Floor Schermerhorn (2pm)

How do we engage students in discussions? This workshop will explore strategies that can help educators to create a safe learning environment in which students feel comfortable to contribute. Participants will learn how to engage students in discussions, how to keep them on topic, and how to encourage their participation. Lunch available to registered participants.

Socratic Method as a Teaching Tool for Stimulating Higher-Order Cognitive Skills
March 9, 2016 – 12:00 – 1:15pm (212 Butler)

The Socratic method is one of the oldest and most powerful methods for stimulating critical and reflective thinking in students. This workshop will explore ways to use the Socratic method in the classroom, and how to encourage the participation of students in a stimulating and meaningful manner.

For more information, please visit ctl.columbia.edu/graduate-instructors/