

Student Engagement Practices and Protocols

Guiding Ideas:

Conversation is the natural way we learn.

The conversation is the relationship.

Reflection and generation produces new learning.

Learning Conversation Practices and Protocols

Close the Loop- After each mini-presentation or conversational space, slow down the conversation and “close the loop”. Most learners hold 5-7 concepts in active memory at one time. Pausing, provides teachers with an opportunity to check for clarity and understanding. (Example: In a 60 second conversation with a partner discuss what you heard and what it means to you.)

Check In- Students walk into the classroom with many different things going on in their minds, we call this “cognitive noise”. A Check In allows the students to clear their mind of other issues, settle in and focus so they are ready to learn. This simple activity gets students engaged, present and focused on the learning outcomes for the lesson. (Example: What did it take for you to get here today?)

Check Out- This provides students an opportunity to reflect upon the information being discussed in each mini-presentation. The teacher also discovers how the information “landed on” the students. It surfaces the biggest take aways or what has resonated most significantly with the class. (Example: What concept did you find most interesting and why?)

Focusing the Classroom - CPO/Objectives
Focusing, orienting and engaging the students. What do you want the students to know and be able to do?

ARR- Acknowledge and Respond Respectfully

Making a student’s thinking wrong quickly turns the conversation silent. When different views are voiced, acknowledge them and respond respectfully, especially when you do not agree. Stay in inquiry, surface their thinking and discover how they came to their conclusion. Shutting them down sends the message that only one viewpoint is welcome, thus limiting the thinking of the class.



REI - Lesson Design

Follow this simple lesson design format to ensure the students are clear on what they will learn, how they will demonstrate mastery of the concept and what methods or activities you will use to ensure learning takes place.

R - RESULT - What are the learning outcomes of the lesson?

E - EVIDENCE - What will each of them know and be able to do?

I - INSTRUCTIONAL ACTIVITIES - What will you design to ensure they learn the content?

Conversational Leadership “Tips” for Beauty School Educators

- **FOCUS - Create and maintain focus at the beginning of every class session.**
 - Share with your students; why the topic is important, what they will know and be able to do at the end of the lesson.

- **ENGAGE – Keep students engaged through conversation and movement.**
 - Get voices in the room quickly with a check-in; “What was your biggest learning from our lesson yesterday and why?”
 - Sustain engagement by incorporating different conversational groupings: pairs, triads, or groups of four. Notice the energy in the room and invite participants to stand, change seats and move around frequently.

- **SHARE –Give the students the opportunity to process the information.**
 - Close the learning loop after three big ideas have been discussed. This enables participants to process the information and deepen their learning.
 - “Which ideas resonated with you most and why?”
 - “What will you do differently?”
 - “What is something you are already learning?”
 - “What have you found surprising or interesting about this information?”
 - In groups of three, surface one question you have about what we just discussed.

- **CHECK OUT – Close the loop at the end of the session.**
 - Share in small groups or with a partner for 2-3 minutes, then ask for a few examples to be shared around the room; example provocations:
 - What is your biggest learning and why?
 - What is your personal commitment to change?
 - What was your biggest takeaway?

- **ENVIRONMENT – Create a safe place for sharing.**
 - AR- Acknowledge and Respond Respectfully to all participants.
 - Keep the Learning Conversational Guidelines alive in the room:
 1. Listen for Understanding
 2. Speak From the Heart
 3. Suspend Certainty
 4. Hold Space for Difference
 5. Slow Down the Conversation