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How to Create Engaging Lessons for Students–Teach– Students Initiative



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1. Tips for Using Visuals

Keep it Simple: Use clear, easy-to-read visuals. Avoid clutter and unnecessary text.

Be Colourful: Use colour to highlight key points, but ensure it's not overwhelming.

Choose Relevant Images: Include diagrams, photos, or illustrations directly related to your topic.

Incorporate Videos: A short, engaging video clip can effectively capture attention and explain concepts.

Examples:

- For a science lesson: Include a labelled water cycle diagram.
- For math: Use color-coded graphs to show trends or patterns.

2. Tips for Engaging Questions

Open-Ended Questions: Encourage critical thinking and discussion.

Example: "Why do you think plants need sunlight to grow?"

Poll the Class: Use quick yes/no or multiple-choice questions to gauge interest or understanding.

Challenge Assumptions: Pose questions that make students rethink what they know.

Example: "What would happen if there were no nutrients in our food?"

3. Tips for Interactive Strategies

Hands-On Activities: Create opportunities for students to touch, build, or manipulate objects.

Example: A model-building activity for STEM topics, e.g., building a physical or digital model of a sustainable food system that balances nutrition and environmental impact.

Group Work: Encourage collaboration through team challenges or brainstorming sessions.



Gamification: Turn learning into a game with quizzes, puzzles, or competitions.

Examples of Icebreakers and Activities for the 5Es Engage:

Icebreaker: "What If?" Scenario

Pose a creative scenario related to the topic.

Example: "What if there were no trees? How would our lives change?"

Quick Demo: A simple, attention-grabbing experiment or trick.

Example: Show how bile emulsifies fats in digestion.

Explore:

Hands-On Experiment:

Example: Provide materials for students to simulate the breakdown of carbohydrates during digestion.

Observation Activity:

Example: Ask students to observe and describe differences in two similar images.

Explain:

Interactive Presentation:

Use slides with fill-in-the-blank sections for students to complete during the explanation.

Role-Play:

Example: Have students act out processes of nutrient absorption in the small intestine.

Elaborate:

Problem-Solving Task:

Example: Assign students to design a solution for reducing plastic waste in their community.

Creative Project:

Example: Create a poster or digital presentation connecting the lesson to real-world issues.

Evaluate:

Quiz Show:

Use a game format like "Jeopardy!" to review key concepts.



Peer Feedback:

Students evaluate each other's work using a simple rubric.

Key Reminders for an Engaging Lesson

- Be enthusiastic as your energy sets the tone for the class.
- Adapt to your audience and be flexible if something isn't working, so try a different approach.
- Encourage participation and make students feel heard and valued.
- Reflect on the lesson and improve. After the lesson, think about what went well and what could be better.