
I WANT MY STUDENTS TO BE MOTIVATED TO LEARN.

Faculty cannot control everything, but they can create a classroom environment that can encourage students' motivation. Both intrinsic and extrinsic factors affect whether students feel interested in a course and are inspired to work hard in a class. Check out this [short video](#) from Dr. José Antonio Bowen on *How Student Thinking Works*.

Inspire Interest in the Subject Matter

- Help students find personal meaning in the material through real-world problem-solving, personal reflection, applied learning, and/or career-based case study.
- Identify assignments that require curiosity, challenge, or mastery.
 - Use the [NILOA Assignment Library](#) to explore assignments by discipline, level, or proficiency.
- Avoid “busy work,” and seek assignments that students will see as valuable.
 - Connect your assignments to your course learning outcomes; find out more at "[I want my course to encourage learning.](#)"
- Give students as much control over their own education as possible (e.g., topics, projects, class structure, etc.)

Ensure Opportunities for Student Success

- Give students opportunities for success early in the semester to give them confidence and avoid demoralizing feelings. Once students succeed, incrementally increase the difficulty level.
- Assign tasks that are realistic.
- Avoid grading on the curve to give all students the opportunity for high scores.
- Teach students effective learning strategies
 - Consider sharing resources from Dr. [Saundra McGuire](#); such as The Study Cycle
- Teach students about [growth mindset](#) and share your own struggles.
 - Take the short [mindset assessment](#) to assess your assumptions about mindset.
 - Consider sharing this video with your students: [What is growth mindset?](#)
- Encourage and reward peer tutoring

Create a Positive Learning Environment

- Help students feel valued: be open-minded, enthusiastic, friendly, and know your students. **Enthusiasm is especially relevant to student motivation – it's contagious!**
- Use a variety of teaching methods – keep things interesting. Use [active learning methods](#) as much as possible.
- Read our pages on [effective feedback](#) (giving early feedback is especially important), [helping students stay involved](#), [personalizing your class](#), and [creating an equitable classroom](#).