How Can Objects and Analogies Improve my Teaching?

Presented by: Ken Alford
**Presenter Bio:**

Kenneth L. Alford is an associate professor of Church History and Doctrine at Brigham Young University. After serving almost 30 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, he retired as a Colonel in 2008. While on active duty, Ken served in numerous personnel, automation, acquisition, and education assignments, including eight years teaching computer science and information technology at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and four years as Professor and Department Chair of the Strategic Leadership Department at the National Defense University in Washington, DC.

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How Can Objects and Analogies Improve my Teaching?

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Our Goal
Learn how to easily incorporate visual aids and picture analogies into lessons
1. Using Visual Aids

Visual Aids

Invite students to look for relationships between various physical objects and your topic.

For example...

*How might the following items be analogous to various academic subjects?*
Visual Aid Suggestions

1. Ensure students can see the visual aid
2. Consider a “picture back-up” for large classrooms
3. Don’t fear silence
4. Don’t be too quick to give “the” answer
5. Students are creative; be prepared for unusual (but excellent) answers

Using Picture Analogies

Invite students to “figure out” how various pictures relate to your topic.

For example...

*How might the following pictures be analogous to various academic subjects?*
**Picture Analogy Suggestions**

1. Use only high quality images
2. Use large pictures so students see them clearly
3. Explain the picture *without* drawing an analogy
4. Ensure students clearly understand their task

**General Suggestions**

1. Look for visual aids and pictures *everywhere*
2. Use as a “seasoning” (not a “main course”)
3. Keep each exercise short
4. Encourage students to guess
5. Don’t reject student answers
6. Keep your class focused on the activity
7. Have faith in your students
4. “The Bottom Line”

We’d like to know what you think!

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“Try it; you’ll like it!”