

How Do I Get Students to Come to Class Prepared?

Presented by:

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Presenters



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Question

Why do you think students come to class unprepared?



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Questions

If your students came to class prepared, would they acquire a deeper understanding of the material?

If they came prepared, how would that change the way you teach?



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Prepared Students Are Not a Mirage

We can get our students to come to class prepared, but it requires a different course design.



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Interactive vs. Traditional Teaching Model

<u>Traditional Model</u>	<u>Aspects of Learning</u>	<u>Interactive Model</u>
Class Time	First Exposure	Class Time
Student-Alone Time	Higher order Reasoning	Student-Alone Time
Teacher-Alone Time	Teacher Response	Teacher-Alone Time



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Interactive Model We Use

Class Preparation Assignments (CPAs)
and
Definitional Grading System



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Class Preparation Assignment (CPAs)

Reading assignments with informal writing assignments of roughly 4 to 8 questions.

Guides student's reading, prepares them for class, and serves as basis for class discussion.



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Graded Pass-Fail Only

To earn credit for a CPA, a student must:

- Show a good faith effort on every question
- Bring 2 copies; 1 copy to me before class
- Attend class to modify and expand answers and add value to class discussion



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Definitional Grading System

Course Grade	Graded Work	Pass-Fail Work
A	A average	Pass \geq 90% assignments
B	B average	Pass \geq 83%
C	C average	Pass \geq 75%
D	D average	Pass \geq 65%



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Definitional Grading System

To get a particular course grade, a student must meet or exceed the standards for each category of work.



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More on the Definitional Grading System

Have grading system approved by chair and ombud.

Can modify to include a grade floor.

Seldom does CPA grade fall below grade on exams, etc.



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Class Preparation Assignments

Don't make CPA questions too easy or too hard.

CPAs deal with first exposure and prepare students for class discussion and active learning strategies.



Class Preparation Assignments

Teach as if students come prepared.

Use CPAs as the basis for class discussion and active learning strategies.



Active Learning Strategies

- Space & time for informed student voices:
R-E-S-P-E-C-T
- Socratic method
- Cooperative learning strategies
- Problem-based learning or team-based learning
- Flipped classroom



Prepared Students

If you are willing to change your course design, you can get students to come to class prepared.



Prepared Students

When students come prepared, adjust your teaching style to engage them in deeper thinking about the subject.



Please contact us if we can be of any help to you:

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