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# Promoting Student Success & Engagement - 8 Take Aways

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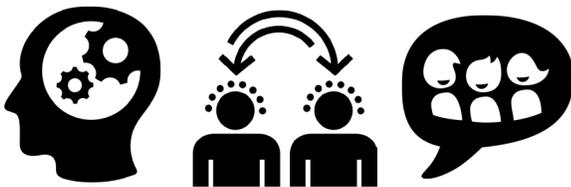
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# 8 TAKE AWAYS

## Promoting Student Success & Engagement



### Think - Pair - Share

Need a great warm-up activity? Try think-pair-share. Introduce a problem to your learners and ask them to spend a few minutes thinking about it on their own. Then, have them pair with a partner to discuss answers/solutions. Lastly, debrief by pairs or as an entire class to discuss answers/solutions. Think-pair-share activities also help to promote better classroom discussions, overall; this method of discussion empowers individual learners to participate in larger classroom activities and discussions.

<http://bit.ly/thinkpairshare>



### Student Response Systems

Student Response Systems (SRS) are one method of actively engaging your class. SRSs can be used for various activities such as a discussion warm-up or posing questions to students to gather real-time information about student learning. Students can use this feedback to monitor their own learning, and instructors can use it to change how they manage class "on the fly" in response to student learning needs. Twenty-nine classrooms at Binghamton have a build-in SRS called i>clickers. Other cellphone and computer-based systems, such as Poll Everywhere or TopHat, can be used in classrooms with sufficient wifi density.

*"[Students'] success in college is built upon classroom success, one class and one course (subject) at a time. If our efforts do not reach into the classroom and enhance student classroom success, they are unlikely to substantially impact student success."*

*- Vincent Tinto,*

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## Cloud-based Collaboration

Cloud-based collaboration spaces, like Google Drive, allow users to work together in real-time on documents and other files. Google Drive can be accessed via any internet-connected device and allows you to upload or create various online documents, work on them in real time with others, and store them all in one location. The collaboration of Docs makes it an ideal tool for group assignments, revision cycles, shared notes, and creating a more efficient classroom.



## Students Create the Content

Have students create their own course content! Students become more invested in a course when they are generating the material. Invite your students to create and add to the course content. This could be as simple as your students sharing photos, articles, and videos expressing their views on a more general topic or asking each other questions about reading assignments to having them research and teach a lesson or portion of a lesson to the class.

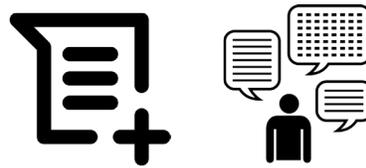
<http://bit.ly/studentcontent>



## Jigsaw

The jigsaw method is a structure for group discussion where a general topic is discussed through small group discussions on a specific aspect of that topic. For instance, a small group may discuss the impact of *The Catcher in the Rye* on society whereas the larger topic is the novel, in general. After small group discussion each group debriefs with the entire class, thereby putting the “pieces” of the puzzle together.

<http://bit.ly/jigsawmethod>



## Communication & Feedback

Constant communication and feedback are often overlooked as a practice to promote student engagement and success. If a learner has done something well in your course, let them know about it. If you notice that someone is struggling in your course, contact them. Communication with your learners and providing them with feedback is one of the best ways to promote engagement and success. Sometimes, the smallest tasks can make the biggest differences.

<http://bit.ly/communicatesuccess>



## Blackboard Tools

Blackboard has many tools that can increase student engagement, such as announcements, groups, discussion boards, blogs, journals, wikis, and surveys. In addition to these tools, Blackboard’s Retention Center allows an instructor to track student performance and quickly and easily identify students at risk based on criteria you define. You can decide who you want to flag as at risk, add notes on individual learners, and contact them directly from the Retention Center.



## Real World Scenarios

Another tactic to increase student engagement is with “real world” scenarios. Students apply what they learn in class to the world at large. Many traditional scenarios such as case studies, simulations, and games are available online. You may also try problem-based learning where students identify their own knowledge gaps and develop strategies to solve an open-ended question.

<http://bit.ly/gamesandsims>  
<http://bit.ly/problembasedlearning>

## References and Resources

- Tinto, V. (2012). Enhancing student success: Taking the classroom success seriously. *The International Journal of the First Year in Higher Education*, 3(1). 1–8. doi: 10.5204/intifyhe.v2i1.119

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