

Strategy: Using Quizzes/Reviews to Promote Student Engagement and Collaboration

Using quizzes and/or reviews of reading (both graded and ungraded) can enhance class discussion and student learning and ensure students come to class prepared to participate. This strategy does so in a way that builds class community through collaborative learning and motivates all students to participate.

Origin

Deterding, A. (January 26, 2012). Using quizzes to promote student engagement and collaboration.
<http://www.facultyfocus.com/articles/teaching-and-learning/a-new-kind-of-space-for-quizzes/>.

Application

Procedure:

1. Randomly select two students to serve as leaders. (The article suggests utilizing your roster, having one student randomly designate a number, having another student tell you to go “up” or “down,” and counting through names in that direction to designate Student 1 (the original number) and Student 2 (the student a certain number of spaces away from Student 1).) Allow students to decline, but do not select alternates.
2. Have the student leaders start working in the “community space” (chalkboard, whiteboard, computer screen, etc.). Give the students three minutes before the quiz begins to write anything from the materials assigned for that day on the board.
3. Allow the student leaders to talk with one another to determine what they will write on the board.
4. Do not allow the other students to talk or consult their notes or the book while the leaders write in the community space.
5. Give the quiz/review and allow students to utilize the material provided in the community space.

Benefits:

- Students come to class prepared because they may be selected to write in the community space.
- Students collaborate by planning the community space and checking each other’s work for accuracy.
- Students anticipate what may be on the quiz/review and this helps guide their preparation.
- Students are more prepared and ready to participate in the class, including class discussion.
- Students develop a strong sense of community through the collaborative nature of the quiz.
- The strategy provides a unique approach to a standard classroom activity.
- The strategy makes quizzes a more positive and useful learning experience.

Reflection

- How can you utilize this strategy in your course?
- Are there uses for the community space other than quizzes?
- What other opportunities can you create to improve student preparation for class?