



Time on Task—Increasing Student Engagement

Time-on-task refers to the amount of time students spend attending to school-related tasks (Prater, 1992).

John Hattie gives this important classroom factor a 0.62 effect size. Robert Marzano, another famed educational researcher, published the following five techniques in his book, *The Art and Science of Teaching*.

1.High Energy

The same part of the brain that processes movement also processes learning. When planning lessons, find ways to incorporate movement. It doesn't have to be dramatic—using three different colored highlighters to highlight different types of information is still movement. Think about Kagan structures such as Quiz, Quiz, Trade. Even a structure like Showdown allows students to move when time is called and they display their boards.

2.Missing Information

Curiosity killed the cat, and it also increases student's thirst for knowledge. Academically focused puzzles and games whet the "mental appetite" and provide an element of anticipation. Incorporate academic games like Scoot or RIVET into your lessons. They are great previewing and reviewing activities for students.

3.Mild Controversy and Competition

Students like problem-solving with their peers. When controversy is not too strong, it can enhance learning by adding excitement and fun into classroom activities. Incorporate structured debates and group competitions to enhance student achievement. When students engage in activities such as Team-Games-Tournament, you are allowing them to enjoy their competitive natures.

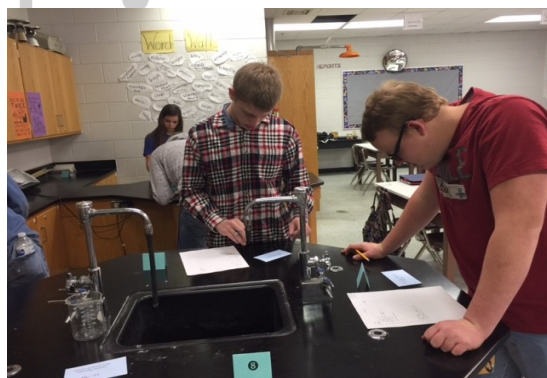
4.The Self-System

The self-system is the system that controls what we decide to attend to. Everything we find personally interesting and valuable. Take a general inventory of your students' likes. Plan critical input experiences that reflect the learning goal, and things that give your students enjoyment, satisfaction, and pride. You can utilize Kagan's team building activities to collect some data. Strategies such as Task Rotations (from Harvey Silver's work) also enhance student choice and improve motivation.

5.Mild Pressure

Students are smart; they look for patterns in our behavior. Keep them guessing and also attentive. Students will raise their level of attention if there is a moderate chance they will be called on. Mild pressure can be generated during questioning. Consider ways you can use your Kagan mats to ask for student responses. Have students use A/B partner talk and Pairs/Compare strategies to ensure 100% accountability.

Spotlight on Excellence



Students in Matt Dickison's science class study content using the whole group engagement strategy Scoot.

Winter Events

- ◆ **Dec. 5, 1st Grade**
Academy, OHES, 8:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Dec. 6, 2nd Grade**
Academy, TCES, 8:15 a.m.
- ◆ **Dec. 7, Kindergarten**
Academy, Heritage, 8:15 a.m.

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