

Seven Tips for Turning Listeners into Learners.

From *Preventing Death by Lecture!*

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TIP #1: The Ten Minute Rule:

After every ten to twenty minutes of lecture, stop for 1 - 2 minutes and involve your learners in a quick review of what you just taught them. They can do this review in a variety of different ways: verbally with a partner, individually by writing or drawing, answering questions verbally or in writing, signaling their answers to questions you ask, shouting out facts or questions - as many ways to review as you can create. (See *Preventing Death by Lecture* for many more ideas).

TIP #2: Beginning with

Connections: One of the two most powerful “teachable moments” is the beginning or opening of your lesson or lecture. Don’t waste it with housekeeping details. During the first 3 - 5 minutes of your opening, teach something of vital importance to the topic - and involve your learners while you do it. You are connecting them to the topic, to you, and to each other - all crucial connections to learning.

TIP #3: Closing with

Celebration: The second most “teachable moment” is the closing of your lesson or lecture. Learners remember the beginning and ending of a learning experience more easily than they remember the middle. So make sure your closing allows for some evaluation of what was learned, a commitment to use what was learned, and a quick celebration with the other learners.

TIP #4: Marking the Middle:

Even when you're in the middle of your lesson or lecture, you can include mini-openings and mini-closings so that your learners will remember the middle information longer. You do this by using the ten minute rule - stopping for a quick review, a quick skills practice, or a quick game that uses the information you've just taught.

TIP #5: Experts Unite! A

connection activity to use at the beginning of your lesson or lecture. Learners form small, seated "expert groups," introducing themselves to their small group and telling their group members something they already know about the topic of the lesson or lecture.

TIP #6: Toss It Around: A

high-energy way to involve all your learners in the closing of your lesson or lecture. Toss a koosh ball or similar soft, throwable object to a learner who must say what he learned or what he'll do with what he learned. He tosses the ball to someone else until a few or all learners have gotten a chance to talk.

TIP #7: Nudge Your Neighbor:

The easiest way to get all learners involved in a quick 30 second to one minute review of your lecture or lesson. You direct

them to "nudge a neighbor" (turn to someone seated near them) and tell their neighbor three things they just learned, or a question they still have, or the most important thing they learned - anything related to what you just taught them. This activity can fit easily into any part of your lesson or lecture.

From: *Preventing Death by Lecture!*

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Author and traveling teacher Sharon Bowman helps educators and business people "teach it quick and make it stick," - fine-tuning their information-delivery skills and turning their passive listeners into active learners.

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