

7 Tips for Motivating Learners

Motivation is a key factor in improving learner's effort. Relationships and frequent feedback are essential elements in creating a positive learning environment. The following suggestions can also increase learners' efforts to work hard, take learning risks, and to desire success.

Expectation #7 "We will encourage each other to do our best!"

1. Reflect clear expectations and consistent standards.
 - a. Use the **8 Expectations for Living** as a standard of daily conduct and effort.
 - b. Be consistent – calm and assertive demeanor, prepared, and focused on the cultural and academic outcomes.
 - c. Check your level of motivation, It is contagious.
2. Have clearly defined objectives.
 - a. Be prepared with a vision and goal for the learning.
 - b. Track learners efforts and progress, reduce frustrations by use of posted goals/objectives and product requirements (i.e. rubrics, etc.).
 - c. Present lesson with **enthusiasm** and curiosity.
 - d. Aid learners in setting learning goals and evaluating their progress.
3. Create a threat-free environment.
 - a. Reduce clutter in the working environment; less is more.
 - b. Provide space for individual, group, and pair learning.
 - c. Offer organizers and written directions for those who need it.
 - d. Make resources available.
4. Build a strong support system.
 - a. Use **cooperative learning**, pairs, teams, etc. to promote social learning. and to develop a sense of connectedness.
 - b. Offer frequent feedback as to progress and effort of all learners.
 - c. Clarify roles and goals within each learning segment.
5. Help learners to develop "a sense of control".
 - a. Allow learners input in determining the scope and sequence of the learning.
 - b. Provide opportunities for learners to supply authentic learning products.
 - c. Offer learners opportunities to teach what they know.
6. Balance routine and fun.
 - a. Engage learners' interests and skills.
 - b. Begin with structured learning and then open the door for exploration.
 - c. Aid learners in challenging themselves. (Goal-setting)
7. **Celebrate** efforts and successes.

- a. Encourage efforts and successes throughout the learning. (Ideas for encouragement)
- b. Celebrate group successes and goals reached to reinforce the reason for the lesson.
- c. Allow learners the opportunity to direct the celebrations

Kagan Cooperative Learning Structures, 2013,