Engaging lectures

Hints and tips for inclusive learning and teaching

"Tell me, and I forget. Show me, and I remember. Involve me, and I understand." (Chinese proverb)

"Effective teachers: (a) present material in a clear and engaging manner and (b) focus on the interpersonal factors that characterize classrooms and establish rapport with students” (Goldstein, G.S. & Benassi, V.A., 2006).

Preparing to Engage
Reflect on whether your teaching:
- Motivates your students
- Sparks interest
- Creates a learning-friendly environment
- Feeds-back and feeds-forward on progress
- Provides relevant, real-life learning opportunities
- Rewards engagement
- Encourages self-motivation

Inspire and Motivate Your Students
- Explore lecture ideas and concepts in context. Use lots of interesting examples.
- Illustrate the broader relevance and implications of lecture concepts. (A characteristic of ‘The Sheffield Graduate’ is to understand the wider social, cultural and economic context of their academic knowledge and skills-base.
- Pace your lecture so that all students have time to write down important notes.
- Avoid showing negativity towards difficult concepts. If appropriate, use humour.
- Break up lectures by introducing Q&A or short ‘partner-work’ sessions; use the electronic group response system: http://www.shef.ac.uk/lets/techno/services/egrs.html
- Consider the existing knowledge needed for your lecture and explain this to your students at the start. This will allow students of all levels of ability to identify areas of background knowledge that they need to focus on.
- Allocate time in your lecture to allow students to discuss or ask questions about the ideas, topics and concepts raised.

For 101 tips on how to engage students go to:
- http://www.smartteaching.org/blog/2008/08/100-motivational-techniques-to-take-learning-to-the-next-level/

For ideas about the qualities possessed by engaging lecturers read:

For more information go to: www.shef.ac.uk/lets/inclusive