On Course: How to Encourage Students to Become Empowered Learners

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It’s a Math Problem...

- Empowered Learner
- Well designed, learner centered experience
- Significant Learning and Student Success
Empowered Learners

What are a few characteristics of an empowered learner?

They are…..

• Responsible and self-managed
• Motivated to master the course content
• Interdependent and active

Just to name a few…..
Well Designed, Learner Centered Experience

How can a faculty member encourage students to become empowered learners?

• Inform students about expectations of the course and how to get help

• Integrate learning experiences that require mastery of course content and core academic skills

• And...the characteristics from the previous slide!
The Finished Product

- Significant Learning
- Increased Student Success
The On Course textbook
Silent Socratic Dialogue

- A written critical thinking activity for two learners.

1. Write a response to a prompt
2. Exchange response with partner
3. Partners read response and return a thoughtful question
4. Partners exchange again and the silent dialogue continues
Success Teams

- Small groups of students support one another to achieve their goals in the course.
- Each team member identifies his/her desired outcome.
- Group decides what actions they will take to assure every team member’s success.
21 Day Commitment

• A form for helping to create/extinguish habits.
• A behavior is recorded that the Learner commits to do or avoid for 21 days.
• Learner marks the form each day that the commitment is kept.
Think/Pair/Share

- Learners do a solo activity. (THINK)
- Discuss the prompt/problem with a partner. (PAIR)
- Share their thoughts with all learners. (SHARE)
Resources - WCC

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Resources - External

- www.oncourseworkshop.com
- www.hmco.com

- McKeachie’s Teaching Tips; Wilbert McKeachie and Marilla Svinicki, Houghton Mifflin
- Creating Significant Learning Experiences; L. Dee Fink, Houghton Mifflin