5 Secrets to Spectacular Student Engagement

echo 360
active learning

Want the 5 Secrets to Increasing Student Success?

%

Dr. Colin Montpetit of the University of Ottawa achieved the following results[1] with more than 600 students:

- A 99% student participation rate during class time

- More than 66% of students took digital notes

- The percentage of students in the A and B range increased while those who earned Cs, Ds, Es and Fs decreased

- Failure rates decreased from 5% to 1%

- Final exam averages rose from 65% to 75% since the introduction of student engagement tools in the classroom

Read on to learn the 5 secrets….

[1] Dr. Colin Montpetit, University of Ottawa, Learning Fearlessly (Parts I & II), 2014

? Question Everything

Secret **1**

How do you know what your students don't know if you're not asking questions?

Use an engagement solution to get an instant read into understanding. Simply add digital questions right into your presentations – multiple choice, short answer, image-based or ordered lists. Students answer anonymously with their smartphones, laptops and tablets. No raised hands required.

Teaching Tips:

- Insert a digital question every 3-5 slides to keep students on their toes.

- Add at least one poll per class to set a benchmark for student comprehension.

Make It About the G₂ A₁ M₃ E₁

2 Secret

Try something different. "Gamify" your class and get students talking by adding low-stakes participation as part of your grading. With an active learning solution, students can even answer questions and take part in activities outside of the classroom.

Students appreciate having the tools to participate anonymously, engage with their instructor and learn from other students, especially when participation points might be involved.

Teaching Tips:

- Make in-class participation 10-15% of the total grade so students have a chance to boost their grades without being penalized for a necessary missed class.

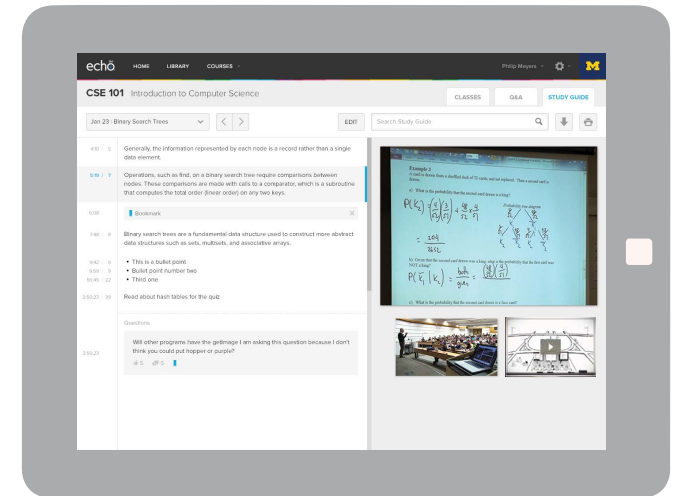- Give students points for each answer submitted, irrespective of correct or incorrect answers.

Smarter Note Taking

Secret 3

Research from the University of Michigan demonstrates that note taking improves learning outcomes.[2]

So why not give students a flexible way to take notes alongside the slides and content being presented? Using the student engagement tool, Dr. Montpetit's students typed 350-500 words per class.[3] With 24/7 access to their notes, along with the course slides, visuals, questions and polls, his students no longer had to worry about organizing pages of fly-away notes come study time.

Teaching Tip:

- Show students how digital note taking makes studying easier – by putting all their course resources in one place.

[2] DeZure, Deborah, Matthew Kaplan, and Martha A. Deerman. Research on Student Notetaking: Implications for Faculty and Graduate Student Instructors. Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Michigan. 2001. http://www.crlt.umich.edu/sites/default/files/resource_files/CRLT_no16.pdf
[3] Dr. Colin Montpetit, University of Ottawa, Learning Fearlessly (Part I), 2014

Peek Inside Their Minds

Secret 4

Students appreciate having the ability to participate anonymously and to communicate with their instructor without having to speak one word out loud. Each time they hit the "confused button" or ask a question in the student engagement system they're sending you an instant SOS signal. With the ability to see these signals and provide real-time feedback and clarification, you can provide one-on-one attention no matter how large the class size.

Teaching Tips:

- Monitor and respond to questions coming in through the student engagement solution during class.

- If this isn't possible, take ten minutes to record a quick video addressing the top questions and post it to the platform for students to view outside of class.

Analyze This

Big data isn't scary when you're in the driver's seat.

Customize the engagement scores within the student engagement solution to measure what's most important to you:
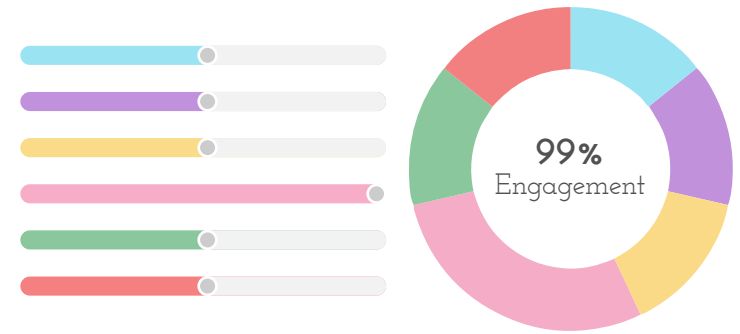
- Student participation during activities

- Number of questions asked and answered

- Least and most engaged students

- Slides receiving the most confused flags

- Which students are taking notes

Customized data gives you the big picture for better outcomes.

Secret 5

Teaching Tips:

- Set your own student benchmarks for success and be sure to check in weekly to see how students are tracking.

- Use analytics to simplify class preparation. Refer back to "confused flags" and in-class questions from the previous class to map out the content plan for the next session.

Customized Engagement Score

99%
Engagement

Create an Active Learning Zone

Extraordinary student engagement and better learning outcomes are indeed possible in this age of device distraction.

Just ask Dr. Montpetit. In his own words, he transformed three sections with more than 200 students in each into an "active learning zone"[4] after implementing a student engagement solution as part of the Echo360 Active Learning suite of tools in his second year Genetics course.

[4] Dr. Colin Montpetit, University of Ottawa, Learning Fearlessly (Part I), 2014

Want to experience these kinds of outcomes in your OWN classrooms?

Visit **www.echo360.com** to learn about the Active Learning Platform and get on the road to spectacular student engagement and better learning outcomes now.

Get the full story and research behind Dr. Colin Montpetit's successful student engagement?

- **Read his blog posts**
- **Download the infographic**

About Dr. Colin Montpetit

Colin Montpetit earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Physiology and is now an Assistant Professor (Science Education) at the University of Ottawa. His work has appeared in Collected Essays in Teaching and Learning, Proceeding of the Ontario Consortium of Undergraduate Biology Educators, and presented at various meetings such as the Society of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, Western Conference on Science Education, and through workshops and seminars at the uOttawa Centre for University Teaching. He regularly teaches a second year large enrollment course (600 students) in Genetics, a third year course in Cellular Physiology, and a third year Lab course in Animal Physiology in both English and French.

About ECHO360

Over two million students at 625 schools across 30 countries rely on Echo360 active learning technology to enhance their educational experience before, during and after class. Developed for educators by educators, Echo360 increases in-class participation with digital polling, provides a rich out-of-class experience by recording and publishing course instruction, and delivers deep usage analytics to help instructors respond to student needs. Students revisit lectures, collaborate with peers, and participate in class on smartphones, tablets, and laptops, wherever, whenever they choose.