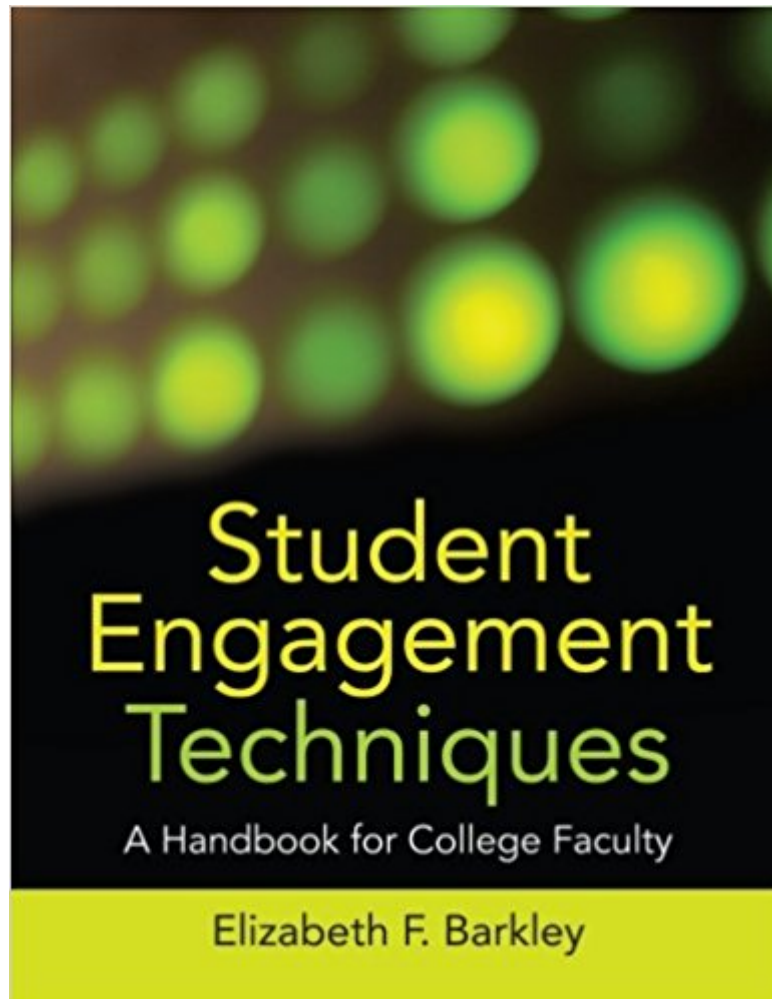


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Student Engagement Techniques: A Handbook For College Faculty



Synopsis

Keeping students involved, motivated, and actively learning is challenging educators across the country, yet good advice on how to accomplish this has not been readily available. *Student Engagement Techniques* is a comprehensive resource that offers college teachers a dynamic model for engaging students and includes over one hundred tips, strategies, and techniques that have been proven to help teachers from a wide variety of disciplines and institutions motivate and connect with their students. The ready-to-use format shows how to apply each of the book's techniques in the classroom and includes purpose, preparation, procedures, examples, online implementation, variations and extensions, observations and advice, and key resources. "Given the current and welcome surge of interest in improving student learning and success, this guide is a timely and important tool, sharply focused on practical strategies that can really matter." —Kay McClenney, director, Center for Community College Student Engagement, Community College Leadership Program, the University of Texas at Austin "This book is a 'must' for every new faculty orientation program; it not only emphasizes the importance of concentrating on what students learn but provides clear steps to prepare and execute an engagement technique. Faculty looking for ideas to heighten student engagement in their courses will find useful techniques that can be adopted, adapted, extended, or modified." —Bob Smallwood, cocreator of CLASSE (Classroom Survey of Student Engagement) and assistant to the provost for assessment, Office of Institutional Effectiveness, University of Alabama "Elizabeth Barkley's encyclopedia of active learning techniques (here called SETs) combines both a solid discussion of the research on learning that supports the concept of engagement and real-life examples of these approaches to teaching in action." —James Rhem, executive editor, The National Teaching & Learning Forum

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Customer Reviews

In our brave new world of rapid change of images and fast paced communication, a new student has emerged where the standard instructional pattern of "I lecture, you listen" is rarely conducive to true learning. Dr. Barkley's new book is a jewel of a contribution to solving the perennial problem of student engagement as it provides a wealth of ideas and practical activities intended to truly involve students in active learning. Organized into three parts, it includes a conceptual framework for understanding student engagement that focuses on the practice and experiences of seasoned teachers. Part two offers a variety of strategies that effectively highlight key goals for any teacher: how to foster motivation, promote active learning, build and ensure an effective learning community, and the understanding of the importance of holistic learning. Fifty student engagement techniques (SETs) are presented in part three with a precise description of each together with step by step instructions for implementation in both face to face and online courses. All together, this book covers effective student engagement from just about every possible angle and any teacher wanting to transform his or her class into an exciting and powerful learning environment cannot fail to benefit from it.

Student Engagement Techniques is a great resource that I am recommending to my AP colleagues! It offers inspiration as well as practical applications for student motivation and learning. The theoretical background is an excellent reminder of just what is going on (or not!) in my students' brains, while the Tips and Strategy sections offer workable approaches to engaging media-saturated students. I have already tried several of the student engagement techniques and feel rejuvenated as my students' interests are piqued by the new activities.

As a math teacher, I am extremely interested in improving student learning and success. Elizabeth Barkley's techniques are focused on practical strategies that can readily assist the instructor and emphasizes the importance of how students learn. It also provides precise steps in addition to 50 tips to execute student engagement and active learning. This book also offers a solid discussion of the research on learning that supports the concept of student engagement. Assisting students on how to develop learning strategies that result in improved content retention should be the goal of any teacher. Barkley suggests three conditions that lead to increased engagement. The first is a

sense of classroom community. Second is that students should be working at their optimal level of challenge which is neither too hard nor too easy. Third, that students learning holistically. I am enthusiastically considering implementing these techniques. Barkley includes 50 learning activities and strategies for increasing motivation, promoting active learning, building community, helping students learn holistically, and ensuring students are appropriately challenged. The book is full of practical advice and ideas for teachers who are striving to increase student engagement and learning supported by research. It is well organized and accessible. Student Engagement Techniques is an important and useful guide for any teacher interested in improving student learning. Gayle Venegas, Math Teacher, San Jacinto USD

My first impression was surprise by the size of the book. It was just about as big as my discipline's textbooks. Then I felt sceptic, there couldn't be all that much on active learning to be discussed, the author must have repeated herself. Fortunately I was wrong. The many suggestions are well organized by themes, techniques fit classes ranging from French cuisine to rocket science. They are not silly or obvious variations of the same idea. A lot of theoretical bases is presented in the opening chapters. Since the book is large I haven't read it completely, but what I read has really inspired me.

I enjoyed the book. However I respectfully submit that the author dismissed and unfortunately misrepresented the Behaviorist position on Education and Learning without exploring that position more fully. The example of negative reinforcement given in the book is erroneous and not based on research of the definition. The author then proceeds employ many of the approaches discussed and validated in Behavioral literature, after having dismissed that very literature. I would definitely recommend this book to college faculty, however in the next edition I would recommend the author seek a more fully rounded analysis of the research available in the field of Behavior Analysis, that is, after all, dedicated to experimental validation of methods of Education and Learning across populations. A good start is Dr Vargas' book 'Behavior Analysis for Effective Teaching' and one of the many useful journals for such research is the JABA (Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis). Thank you.

Every dedicated college professor would love to be able to create a collaborative classroom which engages students in a significant learning experience, balancing motivation and active learning. The question is how. Elizabeth Barkley's book is a tremendous resource to help teaching professionals

meet those goals. It is clear, practical and has a wide range of scenarios and solutions for every type of classroom. I am excited to begin applying these strategies immediately to simple problems as well as more complex ones. I found the discussion of ways to facilitate student development of learner-centered strategies particularly useful. I suspect this book will become a well-worn resource in my own teaching as I work toward transforming my classroom into a more dynamic learning environment.

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