

Fostering Student Engagement

What is Engagement?

Engagement is a cluster of cognitive, emotional, and moral dispositions, responses, and experiences in regard to the **material**, your **teaching**, and other **students**.

Goals	Fears	History	Interests	Identities	Personality
Time	Other people		Beliefs	Personal issues	

Some relevant Dimensions of Engagement

- Value
 - Establish and enhance the value of activities and assignments
 - “This is worth my time and effort”
 - “This is interesting and relevant to me”
 - Relevance (What is the *story* about this activity?)
 - Content
 - To academic goals
 - Real world cases, examples
 - Give students choices, *some* control
- Expectancies
 - Create positive expectancies
 - “I have the knowledge and expertise to succeed in this activity.”
 - “The components of this activity make sense. I know what I need to do and how to do it.”
 - Alignment, connections
 - Clarity of expectations
 - Select appropriate challenges
 - Opportunities for low-stakes practice
- Environment
 - Foster a supportive and inviting learning environment
 - “My question/perspective/experience/etc is important here.”
 - “My contribution is welcome.”
 - Classroom as social space
 - Supportive, inclusive climate; tone
 - Encourage risk-taking
 - Encourage multiple perspectives
 - Encourage peer-to-peer learning and teaching
 - Model these behaviors and attitudes