

Nine Lesson Plan Ideas

Engage Students and Improve Writing Skills

Educators are faced with an increasing challenge of engaging students. How can teachers effectively reach students and help them become better writers? What are effective approaches for promoting critical thinking and original writing? These nine lesson plan ideas offer creative ways to engage students through effective feedback and to educate students about integrity and writing best practices.

CHALLENGE

My students don't use the feedback they receive on their work.

#1

LESSON IDEA: Favorite Feedback: Fact and Fiction

IDEA: Use the [Favorite Feedback: Fact and Fiction infographic](#) to spark a classroom discussion on what makes feedback effective or not. Encourage your students to share their honest thoughts. Understand and identify what effective feedback means to your students.

GOAL: Empower students to be more involved in their learning, analyze what effective feedback means to them, and encourage students to actually use feedback they get.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Share the [Favorite Feedback: Fact and Fiction infographic](#) and ask the class to come up with a list of aspects that make feedback effective for them.
2. Either break students into groups or have them individually review the class list and have them choose the most important aspect for them.
3. Have students share the aspect of feedback that makes it effective. Use this opportunity to get students thinking about what makes feedback effective.

CHALLENGE

My students do not engage with the feedback and comments that they receive on their work.

#2

LESSON IDEA: Student QuickMark™ Competitions

IDEA: Have students generate a set of at least three types of comments that they would like you to adopt. Be creative. Students may ask you to use emojis or catch-phrases that they would want to respond to. For some ideas and inspiration, take a look at [this blog post by Alan Reid](#).

GOAL: Give ownership to students and emphasize the power of having students more involved in their learning.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Ask students what type of comments help them the most. Brainstorm what makes for a memorable or effective comment, and why students find that type of comment helpful.
2. As a homework assignment, ask students to write down and then submit three different comment ideas to you.
3. Choose the best comments that you receive. Share and discuss them in class, especially why you chose them.
4. Create new QuickMarks™ that incorporate the best comment suggestions.
[Get more information on creating QuickMarks™.](#)

CHALLENGE

My students aren't interested in the feedback they receive on their work.

#3

LESSON IDEA: Voice Comments Workshop

IDEA: Use Turnitin's voice comments to spark a classroom discussion on whether voice feedback is engaging or not. Encourage your students to share their honest thoughts. Understand and identify what types of feedback resonates for your students.

GOAL: Empower students to be more involved in their learning by having them analyze what modes of feedback are effective for them. Encourage students to use the feedback they get.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Start providing Turnitin voice comments on student papers. [Get tips on voice commenting.](#)
2. Ask the class to list what makes feedback effective and engaging for them.
3. Have students share the aspect of feedback that makes it effective. Use this opportunity to get students thinking about what makes feedback effective.
4. Alternatively, you can issue a quick survey to gauge if students like the feedback, read the feedback, and whether they find the feedback more effective than other types of feedback.

CHALLENGE

My students aren't equipped with the online research skills that they need to be successful.

#4

LESSON IDEA: SEER Rubric

IDEA: Use the Source Educational Evaluation Rubric (SEER) to get students thinking about and discussing the criteria that they use to determine whether an online source is credible or not. [Download the SEER Rubric.](#)

GOAL: Help students realize that not all sites are credible and educational and be aware of how to analyze and evaluate quality sources for academic writing.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Share the [SEER Rubric](#) with students.
2. Ask the class to come up with a list of 10 websites that they commonly visit for information or homework help.
3. Either break students into groups or have them individually review the list of 10 sites, using the SEER rubric.
4. Have students share their reviews/scores for each site. Ask students why they rated sites either highly or poorly. Use this opportunity to get students thinking and talking about what constitutes a "credible" source.
5. From the discussion, create a list of criteria that students will agree to use in evaluating websites for information.

CHALLENGE

My students don't take academic integrity seriously and don't care about their learning.

#5

LESSON IDEA: Plagiarism and Narcissism

IDEA: According to professor Jean Twenge, there is a connection between academic dishonesty and narcissism. Share the ["Narcissism and Extrinsic Values"](#) video with your students to help start a conversation about student perceptions and values.

GOAL: Discuss plagiarism from a creative angle and surface the different motivations and factors that give rise to academic dishonesty. Create a game plan for increased class buy-in for when academic dishonesty situations do arise.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Watch clips of our Plagiarism Education Week webcast, ["Narcissism and Extrinsic Values: Understanding Student Trends that Impact Plagiarism and Cheating"](#).
2. Brainstorm with students what factors are leading to a rise in academic dishonesty.
3. [Take the Narcissism Quiz.](#)
4. Discuss what factors and motivations are personally identifiable, and create a game plan as a class to minimize the narcissism effect.



CHALLENGE

My students don't have a nuanced understanding of plagiarism.

#6

LESSON IDEA: The Plagiarism Spectrum

IDEA: Use [the Plagiarism Spectrum](#) to walk students through the different types of plagiarism. Highlight specific examples of intentional and unintentional plagiarism, and present strategies for addressing it in the classroom.

GOAL: Help students realize that plagiarism goes beyond copying a whole paper. Plagiarism incorporates the intent of the writer, the original ideas and structure of the original text, as well as attribution and citation practices.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Share [the Plagiarism Spectrum infographic](#) with students, either on the web or as a handout.
2. Give students a paragraph of a literary text and ask them to come up with examples or situations that mirror the 10 types of plagiarism.
3. Have students share their thoughts. Ask students how easy or hard it was for them to generate examples. Use this opportunity to get students thinking and talking about what constitutes proper research practices.
4. From the discussion, create a game plan or checklist to help students avoid plagiarism and start their writing on proper ground.

CHALLENGE

My students don't understand the significance that academic integrity will have throughout their lives.

#7

LESSON IDEA: Teaching Plagiarism Ethics

IDEA: Students today want their learning experiences to be interactive, creative, and social. Instead of doing the same-old "academic integrity" talk, try this role-playing game that equips students to process ethical decisions that they may encounter in their professional lives.

GOAL: Use these classroom improvisation exercises to get students to actually understand the importance of integrity beyond the classroom and in their future professional careers.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. At the beginning of the semester, [watch the webcast](#) and/or [start playing the game](#).
2. After 15 minutes of playing the game, divide students into groups. Instruct them to discuss topics covered in the webcast and game, including plagiarism, ethics, or journalism.
3. Open up the discussion to the class as a whole, and talk about lessons learned playing the game.
4. Use this opportunity to link the game to the real-world and the classroom and emphasize the importance of integrity here and now.

CHALLENGE

My students zone out once I start talking about plagiarism and the importance of original work.

#8

LESSON IDEA: Improvisation and Plagiarism

IDEA: Students today want their learning experiences to be interactive, creative, and social. Instead of doing the same-old “academic integrity” talk, try fresh improvisation exercises in the classroom to better engage students and get them thinking about academic integrity. Build on the ideas shared in the webcast, [“Improvisation and Plagiarism.”](#)

GOAL: Use these classroom improvisation exercises to get students to actually understand the importance of original work and the joy of creativity.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. [Watch the webcast](#) and [read the Q&A](#) to learn about classroom improv principles.
2. Divide students into groups and instruct them to start a discussion. Students should have pre-assigned roles, either to share their ideas or to remain quiet until the whole class discussion begins.
3. After 5-10 minutes, open up the discussion to the class as a whole. Group members should either attribute the ideas they share to themselves or the wrong group members.
4. End the role-playing part of the exercise. Discuss the importance of original attribution and how people may have felt not being rightly credited for their ideas. Link these emotions to the issue of academic integrity. Have a broader discussion about its implications.

CHALLENGE

My students have misconceptions about plagiarism.

#9

LESSON IDEA: Plagiarism Quiz

IDEA: Use [the Plagiarism Quiz](#) to challenge students’ understanding of plagiarism. Highlight specific questions and angles of plagiarism, and discuss it in the classroom.

GOAL: Help students realize that plagiarism goes beyond copying a whole paper. Plagiarism incorporates the intent of the writer, the original ideas and structure of the original text, as well as attribution and citation practices.

HOW TO IMPLEMENT IN THE CLASSROOM:

1. Have students take [the Plagiarism Quiz](#).
2. Discuss with students the questions they thought were easy and the questions they thought were hard.
3. Use this opportunity to broaden students’ understanding of plagiarism, and help them understand that plagiarism is a term that incorporates intent, structure and citation practices.
4. From the discussion, create a game plan or checklist to improve students’ understanding of these different topic areas of plagiarism.

