



10 Tips on How to Motivate the Alienated Learner.

- ① Get to know them. Tap into their needs. Find out what students need and incorporate that into your teaching. Remember friendship is important (see Teambuilding and Classbuilding ideas T2T(UK) club pages). Create cooperative teams, groups and partners.**
- ② Remember you are the greatest role model in class, model the joy of learning. Some students have simply lost (or never had) the true joy of learning something new. If you are not excited about something every class day, how can you expect them to be?**
- ③ Promote positive social bonding. Positive relationships with classmates and teachers create both a rapport and a new accountability.**
- ④ Address fears. List their three main fears and address each of them. Come up with two solutions to counteract or dispel those fears. Until you help create this emotional safety motivation will remain low.**
- ⑤ Amplify feelings of success, use posters, handouts, suggestions and affirmations, group cheers, and praisers constantly. Put affirmations on the walls and in items to take home (my son Michael just received a card through the post from his maths teacher celebrating his latest success- very memorable! Use post-its/ notes to validate and cement success (set them in front of the students). Smile, be positive and genuine. Use authentic praise in front of others – make it public!**
- ⑥ Have students establish the W-I-I-F-M (What's in it for me?) Ask them to set their own goals. Have students set up their own reporting system. Boost feedback by using their cooperative partners or teammates, try 'teach your partner some more!'**
- ⑦ Give the students more time to express themselves, they need time to talk, use structures such as RallyRobin, Timed Pair Share, RoundRobin. Allow time to share opinions and values, to get to understand themselves and their peers. Let them make sense of the world in their own way. Allow time for 'self-rule';**

create projects with lots of student choices. Let students create class rituals to develop a sense of ownership, for e.g. how to finish the day, how to tidy the class etc. Include them in more decision making (it is hard to disagree with something you thought up yourself!) Give them choice on assignments, quantity of work, topics etc. Have regular class meetings. Use a suggestion box/ appreciation for others box. Open up more lines of communication between them, you and others. The more they control their own lives, the happier they will be and the more they will contribute... if we want them to be more responsible we have to give them responsibility!

⑧ Express sky-high expectations, create a 'hall-of-fame'; talk about successful students or groups. What happened to last years great students? What positive events happened with the whole class last year?

⑨ Use positive language, instead of "don't forget your homework," or "don't be late," use positive phrasing. Say "Remember your homework," or "be on time." A constant climate of negative words creates very unmotivated students.

⑩ Use positive responses whenever and where ever possible. Give positive responses to all answers, right or wrong. Celebrate something little every day just to acknowledge that life and learning is a gift. Have students reinforce these attitudes with each other, peer pressure can be used to great positive effect, have them turn and tell their partner. "You are a winner!!"

Jensen E. 1998 'Teaching with the Brain in Mind' ISBN: 9780871202994

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