

When All Else Fails . . . Try Something Else!

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This pithy title is a reminder that we can become so comfortable with certain teaching approaches that we may ignore the many other options available to us. In an effort to stimulate our awareness of these alternatives, Outline 1 lists examples of teaching methods which may be considered. Factors which should be considered in evaluating appropriate teaching methods are summarized in Outline 2. Outline 3 lists examples of student learning activities. This differ-

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ence between Outlines 1 and 3 involves the target individual. Outline 1 represents activities designed by the instructor, while Outline 3 represents learning activities in which the student participates. Outline 4 lists examples of learning facilities and Outline 5 lists examples of instructional materials which may be considered for learning activities. Taken together, these outlines remind us of myriad options which we have as educators in designing quality and effective learning activities and scenarios. So, give it some thought. And, when all else fails . . .

OUTLINE 1

Example of teaching methods

Assignments	Graphics
Audiotape	Group Procedures/Projects
Audiovisuals (preparation of)	Guest Lectures
Brainstorming	Homework
Bulletin Boards	Illustrated Talks
Buzz Sessions	Illustrations
Case Studies	Independent Study
Chalkboard	Investigation
Collections (e.g., objects)	Laboratory Work (e.g., experiments)
Committee Participation	Lectures
Community Study	Library Research
Constructing/Producing Products and Services	Listening
Cooperative Student Experiences	Listing
Critique/Evaluation Exercises	Live performances (e.g. participation in)
Debates	Memorization
Demonstrations	Models
Diagraming	Observation (e.g., of skilled individuals in real-world settings)
Directed Activities	Oral Recitation
Discovery	Overhead Projectors
Discussions (e.g., group)	Panel Discussions
Displays (e.g., preparation of)	Planning Discussions
Dramatizations	Problem Solving
Drill and Practice	Projects (e.g., group)
Exercises (e.g., skills practice)	Questioning
Field Trips	
Games	

Reading Out Loud	Step-by-Step Procedure Panels
Reinforcement Techniques	Students Directing Other Students
Reporting	Supervised Study
Resource Persons (i.e., use of)	Symposium
Reviews	Team Teaching
Role Playing	Videotaping and Review/Analysis
Simulations	Visual Illustrations
Small-Group Experiences	Work-Study
Speaking	Writing (e.g., reports, reaction, term papers, etc.)
Special Reports	

OUTLINE 2

Factors which affect teaching method selection

class size	student abilities
equipment	student backgrounds
facilities	student maturity
funding	student motivation and interests
goals and objectives to be accomplished	subject matter
instructor abilities with the method	time required for the method relative to available class time
opportunities for feedback	
resources needed	

OUTLINE 3

Examples of types of student learning experiences

audio recording	editing
charting	evaluating
collecting	exchanging
computing	exhibiting
conferring	experimenting
constructing	graphing
creating	imagining
dancing	interviewing
demonstrating	judging
discussing	lettering
displaying	listening
dramatization	mapping
drawing	observing

organizing	singing
outlining	speaking
painting	summarizing
photographing	taking notes
problem-solving	thinking
programming	traveling
reading (words, pictures, symbols)	video recording
reporting	visualizing
researching	watching
scripting	working
showing	writing

OUTLINE 4

Examples of facilities for learning

classrooms	lecture halls
community resources (e.g., work sites)	libraries
discussion rooms	media/resource centers
electronic learning centers	playing fields
home study	shops
independent study areas	studios
laboratories	theaters

OUTLINE 5

Examples of instructional materials

Written Materials

articles	pamphlets
clippings (e.g., newspapers, journals)	periodicals
documents	programmed materials
handbooks	reference books
handouts (teacher-made, etc.)	supplementary texts
information sheets	textbooks
journals	

Hardware

computers	machinery
equipment	tools

Audiovisual Aids

actual objects

audiotapes

chalkboards

charts

collections

diagrams

drawings

film loops

films

filmstrips

flannel boards

flip charts

globes

graphs

magnetic boards

maps

microfilms

mock-ups

models

paintings

pictures

posters

radios

records

slides

specimens

tapes (reel-to-reel,
cassette, etc.)

television

videotapes