

## **Engagement in the Classroom**

In order for students to learn, they must be excited and willing to participate. Engagement in the classroom consists of various methods of instruction that the teacher performs in order to present a lesson in a motivating manor. It is the teacher's responsibility to come up with lessons that students can connect with in a fun, learning environment.

The introduction of real world applications is a great way to engage students. Often times, especially in math, students ask if the material is even relevant and question whether they will use it in their lives. Starting off the lesson with a "real world" example will help give meaning to the material. Project based learning captures this "real world" example by giving students a project that is relevant to the workforce. Students will be in charge of what they need to know (forming Needs-to-Know) and be more in-tune because they provided the topics of study.

Incorporating fun learning actives with the material is also a great way to encourage student participation. In a previous lesson, I put students in groups of 4 and gave them problems to solve together. If the group solved it correctly, they each got to crumple up a piece of paper and take a shot playing "Trasketball". This provided students with incentives to solve problems because they all wanted to shoot their papers into the trashcan. Expanding the lesson by adding various activities with the material breaks up the normal lecture routine to give students a change of pace.

Students benefit from engaging lesson strategies because they start to merge learning and fun. They become more excited and involved with the material, leading to better understanding. This also benefits the teacher because it promotes a positive atmosphere in the classroom. Having a well-planned, engaging lesson allows the teacher to spend more time on the material and less time trying to motivate or discipline students. They will also spend less time reviewing because students retain more information when they are actively engaged and participating.