

Motivational Activities for Student Success

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Our organization:

THINGS I DO EVERY SEMESTER

TIDES Section	How can I?	File
Starting TIDES	set the tone and make my first day of class count	The First Day
	Work with students to create a comfortable environment and ensure	Creating a Positive Multicultural
	everyone understands the class expectations	Classroom Environment
		Two-Way Interactions for Uncovering
		Course Expectations
	optimize the effects of a syllabus	Interactive Syllabus
		Create Engaging Syllabi
	help students to monitor their own behaviors and attitudes	promoting student professionalism
		student professionalism tracking form
		A motivational mini-poster
		Gaining the goal making the grade
	nurture class bonds and encourage students to create a learning community	First week activities - teacher handout
		first week activities - student handout
		Card game questions
		Archeological project

		Archeological breakthrough PowerPoint
		Buzz
	motivate students to read and use their textbooks	Getting acquainted with your textbook - teacher handout
		Getting acquainted with your textbook - student handout
TIDES for Self- Discovery	raise students' self-awareness of their strengths, weaknesses, and learning	All About Me
Discovery	style	All About Me PowerPoint
		Self-Awareness, goals, and strategies - teacher handout
		Self-Awareness, goals, and strategies - student handout
		Self-affirmation
		Case Study Popson's Dilemma
		Let's Vote - teacher handout
		let's Vote - student handout
	focus on self-efficacy	Case Study The Procrastinators
		Changing Habits
		Goals A: goals and responsibility
		Goals B: goals and action steps
		Wiping out bad habits
		Wiping out bad habits cards
Future TIDES	provide opportunities for students to see success in their future	Visualizing any future goal
		In five years
		In five years: looking into the future

		PowerPoint
		Ten year reunion: Teacher Handout
		Ten year reunion: Student Handout
		video: 10 rules for success
Essential TIDES	help my students become active learners and take responsibility for their learning	Essential study skills reading T
		Essential study skills reading
		Study habits
		Study habits forms
		Success tips and rules
		Ideas for activities that get students moving
		Bathtub man moving and grouping
		Tea party
	provide a richer explanation of the concept of accepting personal responsibility	video: broken escalator
		Case Study The Late Papers T
		Case Study The Late Papers
	introduce the idea of balancing the priorities of competing demands	Setting priorities
		Video: a jar of life
	instruct students in time management	The power of the quadrants
		Time log
		Time management quadrants
		Time management matrix
		Weekly schedule template
		Time management t

help my students make wise choices	Making wise decisions
	Making wise decisions T
	Video: making choices
	Play difficult choices marriage or
	college
	Play difficult choices marriage or
	college T
help students to speak in a more hopeful language and change their beliefs about their "fate"	Master creator language
	video change your words
	video if you never failed
	video Patrick Henry Hughes
	video Nick Vujicic
	video Ross Capicchioni
 Encourage students to develop academic mindsets and self-discipline	Act it out coping
	Act it out grit
	Teaching students what plagiarism really is
	video a floating pitch
	video Duc Nguyen
	video Patrick Iverson
 get students to learn and use new vocabulary	Ideas for reinforcing vocabulary
<u>'</u>	video most spoken words
	Websites for basic vocabulary lists
	Most commonly used words T
	Most commonly used words
	Collocations T

		Callagation come
		Collocation game
		Make, pay, hold collocations
		Take, have, break collocations
		Academic word lists
		Academic vocabulary general
		Academic word list science general
		Academic word list business English
		Academic word list chemistry
		Academic word list mathematics
		Academic word list nursing
TIDES for Resources and Support	acquaint students with the value of building a support system	video: a smart move
		Support system T
		Support system
		Passport to resources T
		Passport to resources
		video: Derek Redmond
		video: Amazing finish
		ESL tutoring flyer
		Traits of a peer mentor
TIDES Index	ABC order	
	All-levels	
	Self-contained lessons	
	Video clips	
	1	



Activity: Wiping Out Bad Habits Game

Purpose: To have students look at bad study habits and, using their cards, decide how to

counter these habits with positive suggestions or solutions.

Procedure: Prepare a set of Bad Habit cards and Solution cards for each group. If you can

copy them on different colored paper, that works well. There are also blank cards for you to add habits/solutions or to allow your students to come up with their

own ideas.

• Put students in small groups. Give each group their cards.

Tell students to deal out the "solution" cards until they are all given out.

Put the "bad habit" cards in the middle of the table or desks.

One student turns over a "bad habit" card.

 All members of the group try to find a solution and put it down on top of the "bad habit" cards to wipe out that bad habit.

 The groups continue until one member of the group runs out of his or her solutions cards. He or she is the winner.

Follow-up: Ask the students to identify one bad habit they have. This can be something they

saw in the game or some other bad habit they can identify. They can either share their bad habits with their group and discuss how they can solve it, or you can have the students write a short paragraph or a few sentences about their bad habit

and solution to give to you.

When I have a question in class or about the class, I usually ask my friends.	Because of the time difference, I usually call my family late at night. Then I'm tired the next day.	I like to ask a lot of questions and give my opinion in class, but I think the teacher gets mad sometimes.
I didn't understand the teacher and I missed the final exam.	The teacher knows I'm confused but doesn't explain to me.	I don't like to take notes in class.
I have a hard time finding papers I need to study from or turn in.	I have a big family, and it's hard to find a quiet place to study at home.	If I don't know a vocabulary word in class, I look it up on my translator, but then I miss what the teacher is saying.
I prefer to study alone even if the class is very difficult.	When I have a problem, I complain to my friends or make excuses.	I like to go out with my friends even if I have homework due the next day or a test.
I am older than a lot of the students, so it is harder for me to learn.	My favorite TV show is on Wednesday nights but we always have a test on Thursday. It's not fair.	I've always been a night person. It's hard for me to do well in morning classes.

I stay up late at night studying and am really tired the next day in class.	I like to sleep as late as possible and sometimes I am late for class.	I don't give myself extra time to find a parking spot and sometimes I am late for class if I can't find one.
I take the Sprinter and I listen to music on the ride. Taking the Sprinter is relaxing, but I waste a lot of time.	I drive my friend to school and he is always late. This is frustrating, but he doesn't change.	I am always rushing in the morning and sometimes I forget to put my homework in my backpack to bring to class.
I am a procrastinator and sometimes my friends get mad at me if I make them late too.	My two best friends are in the same class as me and it's the only time we get to talk to each other, so sometimes we talk and don't pay attention.	I do my homework in the kitchen, but there are a lot of distractions like the TV and my family.
Sometimes I leave my papers around where my dog can get to them.	I so my homework right after class, but sometimes I forget it by the next class.	I don't like to talk in class because I'm really shy.
Sometimes the class is a little boring, so I text my friends.	I never use English outside of class.	I don't really like this class, so I don't pay attention.

FIND TIME TO RELAX	SIT IN A DIFFERENT PLACE IN THE CLASS EACH DAY	MEET FRIENDS FOR SHORTER ACTIVITIESLUNCH OF COFFEE
DON'T LEAVE IMPORTANT PAPERS ON THE FLOOR OR ON FURNITURE	SET A GOAL TO GET THE BEST GRADE YOU CAN	ASK CLASSMATES IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO FORM A STUDY GROUP
EXPLAIN TO YOUR FAMILY THAT YOU NEED A QUIET PLACE TO STUDY	STUDY IN YOUR BEDROOM	STUDY, READ, DO HOMEWORK
PUT HOMEWORK IN YOUR BACKPACK AS SOON AS YOU FINISH IT	DO HOMEWORK IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY	GO SOMEWHERE QUIET PUBLIC LIBRARY, STARBUCKS, etc TO STUDY
PUT EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR CLASS IN YOUR BACKPACK THE NIGHT BEFORE	MEET WITH FRIENDS BEFORE OR AFTER CLASS	CALL OR TEXT FRIENDS ON THE WEEKEND

GIVE YOUR FRIEND A TIME AND STICK TO ITEVEN IF YOU HAVE TO LEAVE HIM BEHIND	TALK TO YOUR FRIEND	SET YOUR ALARM 30 MINUTES EARLIER
STUDY, READ, DO HOMEWORK	SIT IN A DIFFERENT PLACE IN THE CLASS EACH DAY	FIND TIME TO RELAX
MULTITASK!	MAKE A SCHEDULE	GIVE UP SOMETHING (TV, TEXTING, etc) SO YOU CAN GO TO BED EARLIER
STUDY, READ, DO HOMEWORK	GET UP 15 MINUTES EARLIER THAN USUAL	REVIEW YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE CLASS
PAY ATTENTIONYOU CAN ALWAYS LEARN SOMETHING	TRY TO ASK ONE QUESTION IN CLASS EACH DAY	DO YOUR HOMEWORK CLOSER TO CLASS TIME

DROP THE CLASS	KEEP YOUR PHONE IN YOUR BACKPACK OR PURSE	STUDY WITH CLASSMATES
ORGANIZE YOUR NOTE-BOOK AND STUDY AREA	WRITE THINGS DOWN	THINK ABOUT HOW YOU COULD DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY
USE DIVIDERS IN YOUR NOTEBOOK TO KEEP DIFFERENT CLASSWORK SEPARATE	CALL, E-MAIL OR TEXT A CLASSMATE	IF YOU'RE NOT SURE, ASK SOMEONE
GET A CALENDAR OR PLANNER AND WRITE IN ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES	DON'T CALL AS OFTEN	ASK IF THE TEACHER HAS OFFICE HOURS
GET CLASSMATES' E-MAIL ADDRESSES	GO TO BED EARLIER	MAKE SHORTER CALLS

TALK TO AT LEAST ONE PERSON EVERY DAY IN ENGLISH	GO SOMEWHER WHERE YOU HAVE TO SPEAK ENGLISH	STUDY WITH A CLASSMATE
USE TWO ALARM CLOCKS	ASK THE TEACHER AFTER CLASS IF YOU MISS SOMETHING OR YOU'RE CONFUSED	HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE
DON'T BLAME OTHERS	PLAN YOUR CLASS SCHEDULE TO FIT YOUR LIFE	



Support System: The people you can rely on to help you reach your goal



- Who in your life right now supports your goals? List them below. A.
- There are many aspects of your life that are important and as we saw in the priority section, we choose to put some areas such as family or friends first and other things such as jobs are necessary to put first. Then where does school fit in?

Answer the questions below about your support system.

1.	Do people in your life know you are going to school?
	Who do you include in this group?
Λ	(This is a positive thingyou should be proud of yourself for continuing your education.
7/	School is hard work and requires dedication. It shows what kind of person you are.)



- 2. If you are working, have you told your boss that you are taking classes? ______
- 3. If you attend religious services, do people there know you are going to school? _____
- B. Going to school requires emotional and financial support. You may be able to go it alone, but you may also end up emotionally and financially drained. It is easier if you have support. Read the following situations:
- Situation 1: Anna says she may have to quit school because her boss keeps scheduling her on school nights. She hasn't told him she has a class because she doesn't think it would make any difference.
- 1. Do you think Anna should talk to her boss about her schedule?

- 2. Is there anything else she might be worried about if she tells her boss about going to school?
- 3. Have you ever been in this situation? What did you do?
- Situation 2: Adan was working as a busboy in a busy restaurant. Last year, Adan got married and he and his wife talked about having a family, but even with both of them working, they didn't think they had enough money to support children. Adan talked to his boss about becoming a waiter. His boss was understanding, but told Adan that his English wasn't good enough and that he needed to improve his speaking ability before he could work as a waiter. Adan signed up for ESL classes, worked hard and after two semesters, finished the noncredit ESL program. He took his certificate to show his boss (of course, his English had also improved). His boss recognized his hard work and dedication and offered him the chance to be a waiter.
- 1. Who in Adan's life supported him?
- 2. Whose decision was it for Adan to take ESL classes?
- 3. Why did the boss offer Adan the chance to become a waiter?
- 4. Could Adan have achieved his goal without the support of others?
- Situation 3: Ricardo was struggling to pay for his books and other school expenses. He worked hard, but it was difficult. Although Ricardo attended his church and volunteered there whenever he could, he never thought about asking for financial support. One day he was talking to his pastor and mentioned that he was going to college even though it was very difficult with his family and job. The next week, he was surprised when the pastor asked him to come and talk to him. Ricardo was used to the pastor asking him to help out, but he had not been asked to meet in the pastor's office before, so he was nervous, but of course, he went. The pastor told him that the church gives small scholarships to graduating seniors to help them in college and that they wanted to help Ricardo too. The scholarship was small, but Ricardo was able to buy his books for the next semester.

1.	Why didn't Ricardo ask his church for support?						
2.	Why did the pastor offer Ricardo the scholarship?						
reject	difficult to ask for financial support. Some people might feel embarrassed or afraid of being ed. Some students only think about getting financial support from the school they attend on't consider other possibilities in the community. Some people are good at asking gers (companies, organizations) for financial help, but most people probably are not.						
1.	Is it easier to ask for financial support from strangers or people who know you? Which one is more likely to help you?						
2.	What connections do you have in the community?						
Share	your ideas with your classmates. It may give you possibilities you had not thought about.						
C.	Read the quotes below. Discuss them in your group. Which one do you like most? Why?						
1.	In a relationship each person should support the other; they should lift each other up Taylor Swift (singer, songwriter)						
2.	I've always thought that people need to feel good about themselves and I see my role as offering support to them, to provide some light along the way. Leo Buscaglia (author, motivational speaker)						
3.	"T hose who are less fortunate O ften don't want to ask for help.						
	 H ard times hit all of us at some point E njoy your good fortune L et your fortune help others P eople helping people makes this world a better place!" 						
	Catherine Pulsifer (author, blogger)						

- 4. The real point is that we all need help somewhere along life's path whether we think we will or not. And, if you are the one giving and helping, just remember this: no matter what happens later, you will always be secure in the fact knowing that you have remained strong and true to assist those that need your help.
 - --Catherine Pulsifer, Always Care
- 5. There are going to be times when you learn more about the world you're entering and feel defeated when you see the gap between the ideal and the reality...But that's something we'll all face. The people that face those obstacles and overcome them are people whose dreams come true.
 - -- Tsugumi Ohba, Bakuman, Volume 3: Debut and Impatience
- 7. Everyone needs help from everyone.
 - --Bertolt Brecht (German poet, playwright)



Congratulations! You have just been hired as a campus ambassador to give a guided tour to new students of some important campus resources. You will learn the placement and function of some of the buildings so you will be ready to answer any questions a student may ask.

As part of your training you will tour the campus and make a schematic (map) for students to find the library, computer lab, etc. You will also develop a "passport" which will help familiarize students with the resources on this campus.

Let's get started.

On the back of this paper draw a map of the following buildings:

Library Tutoring Center Book Store

Computer Lab Health Office

Financial Aid ESL Office

Developing a Student Passport

You will need to travel to each of the buildings on your map. Find three things that would be useful to ESL students.

Library	Book Store	
 Tutoring	ESL Office	
Fin. Aid	Health Off	
Computer Lab		

Now from the information you have gathered, design a "passport" students will carry from location to location. It should include at least two questions they must answer at each stop. Keep an answer key to check correct answers.



Popson's Dilemma

Parts: Narrator, Gina, Gloria, Rachael, Paul, Jim, Bob, Ronald, Sally

Narrator: Eight friends are making out their class schedules for the coming semester. They all must take a citizenship class, but have heard that it is quite difficult.

Sally: Who do you guys think is the easiest professor for this citizenship class?

Paul: My friend took Dr. Popson's class. He said it was very boring and the students only came part of the time. They didn't learn anything.

Gina: My sister had his class and dropped out. He doesn't care about the subject, so she didn't think she needed to care either.

Gloria: My best friend took Dr. Assante's class. He kept talking about the careers they would all have some day and how much money they would be making. His tests weren't too hard; she got a C+ In the class.

Jim: I understand Professor Buckly is pretty easy. You get to make your own personal learning contract and add extra credit if you want. You even make your own deadlines for turning in assignments. I heard that hardly anyone ever fails that class.

Bob: Aren't we missing the point here? We all need this class to graduate, but isn't it more important to get something meaningful out of the class besides a grade?

Jim: I will just be happy to pass.

Ronald: Do you have any advice, Bob?

Bob: Right now I just want to listen to everyone else.

Gina: I heard that Professor Chang was good.

Paul: Really? How so?

Gina: Well, I heard Professor Chang designs the class around service projects that interest students. They take on a civic responsibility like registering voters or becoming a guide at a historic museum. They aren't only learning about citizenship, they are practicing it along the way.

Bob: That does sound interesting. Has anyone heard of Dr. Donnelly? I read an article about him in the Student News. He is a no-nonsense teacher. He starts every class with a quiz. If you are late, you miss out. He gives extra points for doing well and takes away points if you mess up. I heard he's tough, but he is also fair.

Sally: He sounds hard.

Paul: Hard isn't necessarily bad if it makes you learn. When my friend dropped out of Popson's class, he was so bored he hated the subject. It wasn't at all hard, it just wasn't motivating. He wound up in Professor Egret's class and he loved it. Everyone works on a team to solve citizenship problems. They even conducted a mock courtroom to experience the judicial system. He told me he had never worked so hard in a class and never enjoyed a class as much.

Gloria: I think I would enjoy that class. I also heard Professor Fanning is supposed to be good. He starts his classes by giving every student a personal challenge. They are different for everyone. My friend had to research the constitutional amendment that dealt with gun control, and then write a paper telling why it is or is not relevant today. She really got into the assignment. As the semester goes on, the personal challenges get harder, but my friend loved the class. She earned an A.

Jim: I heard that Professor Gonzales has a really fun class. He does debates and shows film clips, games and simulations. The last class even got to go on a field trip.

Bob: But do students actually learn about citizenship in all those activities?

Jim: When he tested his students' knowledge, they were passing at the same rate as all the other professors' classes.

Ronald: There is one other professor I keep hearing about. Professor Harvey is kind of like Professor Donnelly. He does his thing and teaches the class, but he leaves it up to the student to turn in assignments, do the research and take tests. His tests, by the way, are online. He isn't that hard, he doesn't do games and stuff. He lectures and that's it.

Paul: Sounds like my kind of professor. I hate touchy feely games.

Rachael: I had Professor Donnelly for a different class. Funny thing I did learn a lot about the subject, but I learned even more about myself and how I learn.

Sally: Wow, we have a lot to think about.

Jim: So where do we begin?

Bob: I don't think it's a case of one being better; it works more with what your learning style is.

Gina: That's true except for Professor Popson. I don't think anyone wants a teacher who is uncaring and boring.

Narrator: The students set to work sorting out the information and choosing a professor that would help them learn best.

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Whose class would most likely be a success for you?

Listed below are the characters (professors) discussed in this play. Rank them in terms of your desire for learning and success. Give a different score to each professor. Be prepared to explain your choices.

Most likely to succeed with		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Least likely to succeed with
Professor Assante							_		Professor Buckly
Professor Chang									Professor Donnelly
Professor Egret									Professor Fanning
Professor Gonzales	5								Professor Harvey

Diving Deeper: Is there a teaching approach not mentioned that would be more motivating for you?

Which professor would you most definitely choose? Give reasons for your choice.

Which professor would you most definitely not choose? Why?

What does this tell you about your own learning style?

How would you define success in a college class?