Engaging the Quiet Student
Delphi Center—Celebration of Teaching & Learning
Shantel Crosby, PhD, LCSW
Kent School of Social Work

Think: What is most challenging for you in relation to engaging quiet students in class?

Fill in the Blank:
Having quiet students in my class is ______.

Class participation is about much more than getting students to talk!

Types of Quiet Students

The quiet student(s) in your class may be...

- Culturally Different
- Unprepared
- Shy
- Introverted

How might the needs of each of these types of students be different?

(Zakrajsek, 2017)
Strategies for Diversity

- Create and maintain ground rules
- Model inclusivity in the classroom
- Embed feedback throughout the course

(Ambrose et al., 2010)

What are some good ground rules to establish early on in your class?

Strategies for Preparation

- Administering a quiz
- Round-the-Room sharing
- Muddiest Point

(Ambrose et al., 2010; Zakrajsek, 2017)

Strategies for Preparation (continued)

The Muddiest Point
1. Pass out index cards near the end of class.
2. Ask students to write down the topic or idea that they understood the least.
3. Collect the cards as the students exit.
4. Separate the cards into categories.
5. Review the Muddiest Point(s) at the beginning of the next class meeting.

Strategies for Shyness

- Assign a Task
- Start with Low Risk Questions
- The Minute Paper/Ticket-Out-of-the-Door

(Savini, n.d.; Zakrajsek, 2017)

Strategies for Shyness (continued)

Sample Form: The Minute Paper
In concise, well-planned sentences, please answer the two questions below:
1. What are the three (three, four, five) most significant (central, useful, meaningful, surprising, disturbing) things you have learned during the session?

2. What question(s) remain uppermost in your mind?

3. Is there anything you did not understand?
Strategies for Introversion

- Think-Pair-Share
- Question the Lectures
- Reflective writing

What is one strategy that you can begin implementing immediately to engage quiet students?

References & Resources


Zakrajsek, T. (2017, April 13). Students who don’t participate in class discussions: They are not all introverts [web log]. Retrieved from https://www.scholarlyteacher.com/blog/students-who-dont-participate-in-class-discussions

Shantel Crosby, Ph.D., LMSW
Assistant Professor
Kent School of Social Work
University of Louisville
502-852-0153
shantel.crosby@louisville.edu