

RTC Faculty Focus

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Renton Technical College

Talk It Up!

Media Librarian **Laura Staley** sent along these websites for how to better **facilitate classroom discussions**.



Getting More out of Classroom Discussion is from The Center for Teaching & Learning at the University of California, Santa Cruz. <http://ctl.ucsc.edu/resources/tips/tips-discussion.html> This website includes tips on preparing for class discussion, helping students to have something to say and providing a safe atmosphere for them to say it in, effective questioning techniques, and discussion traps to avoid. Other teaching tips which can be found at UCSC's CTL site <http://ctl.ucsc.edu/resources/tips/index.html> include *10 Ideas for Starting the Quarter*, *More Active Learning Techniques* and more.

Teaching Through Discussion is a summary from the University of Washington of the basic dos and don'ts of facilitating good classroom discussions: <http://depts.washington.edu/cidrweb/Bulletin/Discussion.html>

This PDF article, *Any Questions?* looks at creating good questions to stimulate lively discussions: <http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/lockers/users/f/felder/public/Columns/Questions.pdf>

Managing Hot Moments in the Classroom looks at managing a discussion that has suddenly turned uncomfortable or hostile: <http://isites.harvard.edu/fs/html/icb.topic58474/hotmoments.html>

Keeping Your Students Awake During Lectures

Do students ever doze off in your class during your lectures? Sometimes it is beyond your control but you can help keep them awake by making your lectures interesting, to the point and activity-based. Here are some websites with info on how to do that.

Here are some tips for keeping the right hemisphere of students' brains engaged while listening to lectures. <http://www.visualspatial.org/Articles/awake.pdf>



Eight Steps to Active Lecturing from Ferris State University

http://www.ferris.edu/fctl/Teaching_and_Learning_Tips/Developing%20Effective%20Lectures/8stepstoactive.htm

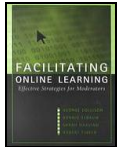
Univ. of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey's Center for Teaching Excellence has links to a list of helpful sites. http://cte.umdnj.edu/traditional_teaching/traditional_lecture.cfm

RTC Library Materials on Facilitating Student Learning

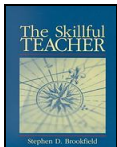
The RTC Library has many books, videos and DVDs on facilitating student learning. Here are a few as selected by Library Director **Eric Palo** and Media Librarian **Laura Staley**:



Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. ***How to Improve Your Questioning Techniques***. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 1999. (VHS video) RTC Library Call Number: **Media 371.3 How-To 1991**



Collison, George. ***Facilitating Online Learning: Effective Strategies for Moderators***. Madison, WI: Atwood Pub, 2000. RTC Library Call Number: **Book Stacks 371.334 COLLISO 2000**



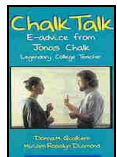
Brookfield, Stephen. ***The Skillful Teacher: On Technique, Trust, and Responsiveness in the Classroom***. 2nd edition. The Jossey-Bass higher education series. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 2006. RTC Library Call Number: **Book Stacks 378.125 BROOKF 2006**



Fink, L. Dee. ***Creating Significant Learning Experiences: An Integrated Approach to Designing College Courses***. Jossey-Bass higher and adult education series. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2003. RTC Library Call Number: **Book Stacks 378.12 FINK-L 2003**



Lowenstein, Arlene J., Martha J. Bradshaw, and Barbara Fuszard. ***Fuszard's Innovative Teaching Strategies in Nursing***. Gaithersburg, MD: Aspen Publishers, 2001. RTC Library Call Number: **Book Stacks 610.73071 FUSZARD 2000i**



Qualters, Donna M., and Miriam Rosalyn Diamond. ***Chalk Talk: E-Advice from Jonas Chalk, Legendary College Teacher***. Stillwater, OK: New Forums Press, 2004. RTC Library Call Number: **Book Stacks 378.1 QUALTER 2004**

We Need Your Contributions and Suggestions!

Please let us know about strategies that are working well in your classroom so we can pass them along to your colleagues. In the next few months we plan to feature info about tips about **active learning strategies** and **cooperative/collaborative peer learning**. Please contact *Faculty Focus* newsletter editor, [Debbie Crumb](mailto:Debbie.Crumb@rtc.edu), with your tips, great websites and suggestions. Access past newsletter issues by going to the Library's website <http://www.rtc.edu/library>, clicking on **Services and Information**, then on **Library Publications**, then on **Recent issues published by RTC Library**, and finally on the desired format (**PDF** or **Word**) for desired issue.



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