

Catch the Interest of Your Students: Beyond Paper and Boring Lectures

By Ralph Ramirez

Teaching really can be like pulling teeth sometimes; that is when the student is not interested. Trying to make a student learn something that they do not want to learn is next to impossible. Teaching turns into babysitting and you count the hours until the next class or you are fighting to stay awake.

Yet other times you can teach, the child wants to learn and because of that natural enthusiasm, you are able to go into more complicated lessons that keep you awake at night, thinking about what transpired. You end up looking forward to that class until it arrives again and you are sad when it is done.

Why are these two examples so opposite? Why aren't all the classes fun and exciting? Why aren't all the kids exactly like your best student?

I dare to say that most students are like your best student. When a child wants to learn they are often faster than the teacher. When they want to learn the process is painless.

Then the question arises... How do I make them want to learn? How do I inspire them? Am I using my technology correctly and to its full potential?

I can tell you that passing a book around or learning circles are outdated. Children live in a high tech era where they are excited by video games and the internet. Some students use computers more efficiently than some teachers.

I dare to say that you can help bring out the "best student" out of your worst student given the correct circumstances.

Those "circumstances" are the utilization of the very best technology at your fingertips. It doesn't have to be complicated to catch their attention, just creative. A teacher has something on a student no matter how bright he or she is. That is experience. Now let's put that experience to use and bring out creativity in your instruction.

In my presentation I will cover different ideas and creative brainstorming that will help to catch the interest of your students. I speak from experience as a music teacher and a seventh grade substitute.

This demonstration will cross manufacturing boundaries but it will focus on visualizers and interactive tools made by Promax Technology. I will analyze the differences in all types of manufacturers' products.

This presentation will be sure to enlighten you and give you ideas about how to effectively use the technology that you currently have or are planning to buy. This presentation will take the sting out of technology and take away the fear of using it. It will inspire you on multiple levels and encourage you to use technology.

One of the main goals of this presentation is to correct the misuse of technology. Far too often, the teacher will buy technology and will have no ground gained with the student. That is because it must be used properly. To take a visualizer and use it like an overhead projector is a waste. This presentation will correct many of these misuses and inspire better use of technology.

The scope of this presentation is the correct and creative use of visualizers (document cameras) and interactive boards; how to combine the two together to make a more effective and seamless teaching experience. We will talk about the different brands of this type of technology and also about the different types of this technology as well as some special information about these different brands.

At the conclusion of this presentation I hope you will walk away with instruction, knowledge and inspiration to correctly and effectively use your presentation materials.