


# Keeping Students Motivated

 Unknown macro: 'space-breadcrumbs'

## Why is this important?

Attention, relevance, confidence, and satisfaction (the ARCS) are keys to student motivation, according to [author John Keller](#).

## Try these strategies:

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Attention</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How can your class engage and keep students' interest?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Find ways to hook your students into the material, such as posting interesting visual examples or startling facts.</li><li>• Ask a question or pose a problem, like a mystery that needs solving. Students' curiosity and desire for an answer will help sustain their attention.</li><li>• Mix it up: vary the activities, visuals, and pacing of each module.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Relevance</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How can your class fit what students want and need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Help students set goals that align with the skills they are developing in class, such as getting and keeping a job.</li><li>• Raise students' awareness about their learning styles and the ways they learn best. Ex: Do they work most efficiently with in-class activities that are cooperative, competitive, or individual?</li><li>• Connect new material with information or skills that students already know. One good technique for doing this is <a href="#">Think-Pair-Share Activities</a>.</li></ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Confidence</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How can students feel successful even when a task is difficult?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarify what students are going to learn and how to measure success. Showing work from past students and using rubrics are excellent ways to do this.</li><li>• Build skill difficulty incrementally and allow for success at every stage. This can be as simple as an in-class task that focuses on developing skill in one procedure.</li><li>• Allow students some control over their learning. Let students choose some projects or contribute questions to an upcoming test.</li></ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Satisfaction</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">How can students' satisfaction with their work spur even more learning?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tie projects into real-life, professional contexts and inspire them further by showing them what expert artists and designers.</li><li>• Use positive feedback and rewards along with constructive criticism. Try sandwiching any negative feedback between positive comments.</li><li>• Make sure that grading is fair and consistent and check in with students individually throughout the semester to avoid unpleasant surprises at the end. Using <a href="#">Easy Grade Pro</a> can help you track student progress and provide them clear, official results.</li></ul>

## Learn more

[John Keller's ARC Model](#)