

Tip Sheet

Tips to Make Your Lessons as Compelling as Video Games

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Ever wonder how you could make your lessons as addictive as a video game. Here are a few tips learned from video games to help make your lessons more compelling:

- 🍌 **Provide more immediate feedback.** Don't wait until days later for students to learn how well they did on an assignment. Give students feedback in real time so that students can adjust their performance and get better.
- 🍌 **Allow students to co-create their learning.** Rather than give them lessons in which every interaction is scripted and they are merely asked to passively participate, make lessons more open-ended and allow students to make choices for how they will learn and how they will show that they have learned material.
- 🍌 **Make failure less risky** by giving students multiple opportunities to succeed. Allow students to start over when they are unsuccessful, give students opportunities for retakes, and rather than asking students to start over completely when they fail, give them a chance to start from their last point of success and work from there.
- 🍌 **Provide opportunities for students to customize what they are learning.** Encourage them to figure out ways to complete a task that work best for their own learning preferences. Allow them opportunities to bring their own interests and learning styles to bear on how they complete their work.
- 🍌 **Give students multiple opportunities to solve the same types of challenges.** Doing so allows students to develop a routine and automatic response to solving challenges that helps prepare them for even greater challenges.
- 🍌 **Manage challenges so that they are "pleasantly frustrating."** Find ways to make learning challenging but ultimately doable by presenting students with a challenge that is just outside of their reach and then showing them strategies that help them effectively manage the challenge.
- 🍌 **Allow students opportunities to experiment with their learning.** Give students the chance to experiment with different strategies rather than imposing one strategy on students. Discuss with them the pros and cons of the different strategies they try and help them make good decisions about what strategy they will ultimately use.
- 🍌 **Provide students with more opportunities for interaction.** Find ways to help students "talk" back to the text and create opportunities in class for students to give you feedback on how well you are helping them learn during the lesson.
- 🍌 **Allow students to work together to solve problems.** Let them learn how to support each other and bring their shared expertise to solve problems that are bigger than ones they can solve on their own.
- 🍌 **Build supports right into your lesson** so that students can access them the moment they encounter a challenge. Don't wait to give students help after the lesson. Give them help in real time so that they can move on with the rest of the class.