

February 18, 2005
Teaching Tip
Mid-semester Reflection

Two weeks ago, I wrote a teaching tip about using SGIDs (Small Group Instructional Diagnosis) as a tool to determine your teaching effectiveness, in terms of student learning. While I encourage you to explore the use of SGIDs to assess the affects of your teaching on student learning, I also encourage you to explore other practices that will give you helpful feedback regarding student learning and motivation.

I believe that frequent assessment of student learning, attitudes, motivation, etc. should be the norm in our classes, and not just at the mid-semester point. However, if that is not a practice that you engage in daily or weekly or an option, you should take advantage of the mid-semester point to ask students some questions that will provide you with information that you can use to improve your course for the remainder of the semester. Here are 3 questions adapted from the SGIDs that you could ask your students:

- Give one or two examples of specific things your instructor does that really help you learn in this course?
- Give one or two examples of specific things your instructor does that make it difficult for you to learn in this course?
- Suggest one or two practical changes your instructor could make that would help you improve your learning in this class?

Even if you don't have the time or inclination to do an SGID or ask the 3 questions above, try at least one question that will solicit good feedback from your students. Design a question, such as the last one listed above that will give you the kind of feedback about your course and your instruction that will help improve the learning environment for both you and your students. Along with such practices as self-reflection and peer observation, mid-semester feedback from students can help you grow as a teacher in ways that are positive and productive.