



Wrapping Up the Semester

Reflection of course content promotes internalization of key concepts. As the semester nears the end, set aside some class time to encourage student reflection of overall course content.

Here are some tips for your final days of class:

1. Course Map

Ask students to construct a map that illustrates key concepts from the course and their relationships to one another. As the instructor, you may want to provide students with the major concepts and important ideas and let the students, individually or in groups, construct a map that visually demonstrates the relationships between these ideas.

2. Final Exam Review

Plan an activity during a review session that requires students to recall and discuss key ideas that might be presented on the final exam. Ask students to work in pairs or small groups to construct questions that might appear on the exam.

3. Course Feedback

Not only does course feedback require students to reflect on their semester's work, it provides helpful information to you as the instructor in planning for future classes. Some strategies for soliciting feedback are:

- Provide students a list of assignments completed in the course. Ask them to consider how the work of those assignments has contributed to their content knowledge. Ask students to give suggestions on how those assignments could be improved.
- Ask students to construct a short paragraph that sums up what they have learned in the course. Let these paragraphs spark a larger class discussion of key course concepts.

Don't forget to share your own reflections with students. Share something that you have learned from them, or something that you will always remember. Just as your beginning days set a tone for the semester, your final hours can serve as a memorable experience that help your students remember and consolidate the wealth of information from your course.