Engaging Student Interest

Some obstacles to student engagement

- students taking a course as a required prereq for outside degree
- has a bad reputation as a “killer” course
- pace of course can leave students behind
Some Strategies For Engaging Students

- Be engaged yourself!

- Shift ownership for learning onto students
  - Discussion-based sessions Vs lecture
  - Ask questions to individuals as well as to the class as a whole
Student-centered learning environment

Give a good overview of where the course is going
  – why study organic chemistry?

Case studies; multi concept problems from the “real world” (Peter Mahaffy)
Present relevant examples
  - CSI, current news, current research
  - integrate examples into course material
  - know your audience

Classroom demonstrations

Peer instruction, “clickers” (Eric Fahlgren)
Learn/teach from mistakes (student mistakes as well as your own)

Small breakout groups during lecture
- show worked out problems/use mistakes to teach
- have students write questions for each other

Good integration between lecture and laboratory components