

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