

Additional Topics for Teachers

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Many of these topics can be delivered to preschool/K-12 teachers together. (Kathy enjoys that challenge and believes in the value of teachers from all these grades learning together and from each other.) They will also work with separated groups (e.g., preschool-K, K/1-5, 6-12, 6-8, 9-12, and even by content area) if preferred. Suggested lengths are included. Many can be combined for full-day presentations. (Please ask if you'd like recommendations on which ones go especially well together.)

Dominant Donna and Silent Sam: Successful Discussions Without Hand Raising

(60-90 minutes)

Do you set out to have quality discussions, but find yourself having question-answer interrogations instead? Are only some students involved? Are you frustrated by the hand-raising "games" your students play? Students' passivity or domination is frustrating. Therefore, practical, realistic, and fun methods to increase thinking, involvement, and level participation will be fully explained and demonstrated. They can make an immediate and positive impact on attitudes and abilities.

Improve Grades by Focusing Students' Thinking

(90 minutes-3hours)

All students think all the time, but don't necessarily think about what you want them to think about. For example, rather than being able to answer your questions, were they thinking about what you were wearing or the places in the history lesson rather than the people you were going to emphasize? Were they surprised you used the verb "compare" in a question? Focusing thinking is essential to improve learning and increase test scores. Learn how! (In the three-hour version, there's time to discuss a profitable scope and sequence chart of thinking verbs.)

Motivation: Change the T.A.R.G.E.T. to Increase the S.C.O.R.E.

(60-90 minutes)

All students are motivated, but they might not all be motivated to learn and succeed. Have you met students who are motivated to remain apathetic or motivated to get into trouble? Unfortunately, they're present in all types of classes. In this seminar, you'll learn realistic keys to engaging students and then assuring their continued desire to do well. The practical ideas will encourage and strengthen you.

Note-Taking Strategies: A K-12 Approach

(60-90 minutes)

Note taking during class and while studying is one of the most important skills for students to learn. The habit of note taking needs to begin in the primary grades, with more independence expected each year. Taking and making accurate, complete, and well-organized notes and learning how to study from them can improve comprehension, retention, and application of the ideas. Confidence and test scores can increase. Therefore, several realistic strategies that teachers of all grade levels and subjects can model while teaching, and students can use while learning, will be clearly explained and modeled.

Renewing the Mind for Permanent Change

(90 minutes)

Change isn't always easy. To understand the change process so we can help students make permanent changes to beliefs, attitudes, and actions, we'll look at the roles of permanence and paralysis, identity and belonging, the change continuum, broken window theory, and how to put off the old and put on the new. Change is possible!

The Skill and Will of Complimenting and Correcting Students

(60 minutes)

Compliments and corrections done badly or not enough contribute to a culture of fear and apathy. On the other hand, done well, compliments and corrections contribute to a positive class, school, and home culture and don't result in pride. Ideas and examples will be specific, compelling, realistic, and help to break long-standing, negative habits. The differences between corrections and criticisms will be especially eye-opening.

Strong-Willed: A Focus on Solutions

(1-2 hours)

Are you raising or teaching strong-willed children who always want their way? In this practical and encouraging session, we'll examine why strong-willed children behave the way they do. Then several strategies that can immediately improve your relationships and lead to peace will be clearly explained and demonstrated. More importantly, perhaps, strong-willed children will be more able to thrive when they learn first-time obedience through these strategies.

Teach Them, Don't Tell Them: Study Strategies that Work

(90 minutes-3 hours)

Most teachers expect their students to study, probably remind them to study, and tell them to "study hard." But have we taught our students HOW to study? Strategies that teachers can use to facilitate teaching and students can use to facilitate learning will be clearly explained and modeled. Motivation, comprehension, retention, and application can all improve when strategies and skills from all eight studying categories are modeled, taught, and used. Ideas will be practical and easy to implement. (When three hours are available, there's time to include information about note-taking.)

Where are Today's Geniuses?

12 Qualities to Encourage in Yourself and Children

(60-90 minutes)

Are you one of those asking where today's Edisons and Einsteins are? Have you been curious about what geniuses have in common and how we might recognize the geniuses in our families/ classes? Tom Armstrong's research resulted in an encouraging list of twelve basic qualities of genius (e.g., curiosity, playfulness, imagination). We'll examine the list (you'll probably be surprised), define the qualities, discuss what may shut down these qualities, and consider how we can encourage these qualities in ourselves and children.

The Writing Menu:

A Practical Tool to Increase Students' Writing Enjoyment and Success

(60 minutes)

Research from the National Writing Project makes it clear that students benefit when writing tasks are authentic. The "Writing Menu" helps teachers and students move beyond this common instruction: "Write a paper about _____. It's due Thursday." The Menu helps students choose important components for their paper, much like they choose parts of a meal. Authenticity, enjoyment, and success result.