



# Novice News

March 2019

## Praxis Help

Need help studying for a Praxis exam?

The following study sessions are available:

- ✓ **Praxis II Social Studies:** March 8, 8:30-3:30, escWorks Session ID: 375051

If there are Praxis exams that you need help with, please email Leigh-

[Leigh.brandon@searkcoop.com](mailto:Leigh.brandon@searkcoop.com)

## Engaging Students

The following *Rules of Engagement* are from the article *How to Keep Kids Engaged in Class:*

<https://www.edutopia.org/classroom-student-participation-tips>

### 10 Rules of Engagement

1. *Start Class with a Mind Warm-Up*
2. *Use Movement to Get Kids Focused*
3. *Teach Students How to Collaborate Before Expecting Success*
4. *Use Quickwrites When You Want Quiet Time and Student Reflection*
5. *Run a Tight Ship When Giving Instructions*
6. *Use a Fairness Cup to Keep Students Thinking*
7. *Use Signaling to Allow Everyone to Answer Your Question*
8. *Use Minimal-Supervision Tasks to Squeeze Dead Time out of Regular Routines*
9. *Mix up Your Teaching Styles*
10. *Create Teamwork Tactics That Emphasize Accountability*

In the article, each rule is explained and examples are given that are applicable to all grade levels.

**New Challenge—Keep your students engaged until the end of the school year!**

## Instructional Strategies

**Definition:** The methods a teacher uses to encourage and train students to be independent learners and thinkers.

March's Research-Based Instructional Strategy:

**Questioning** (TESS 3b, 3c, & 3d)

Questioning is a very powerful tool in the classroom that can motivate students, elicit higher order thinking, assess student knowledge, and shape the classroom environment.

The following are tips from teachers to help improve your questions:

1. Plan your questions
2. Establish a culture in your classroom that promotes questioning
3. Differentiate your question types and response opportunities
4. Encourage and instruct students on how to be good questioners

\*\*For specific ways to do this, visit the article ***Tips from Teachers: Improving on the 'Questioning' Indicator.***

<https://team-tn.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Tips-for-Teachers1.pdf>

There are many types of questions:

1. *Probing Questions* that require students to go past their initial response.
2. *Factual Questions* that require students to recall previously learned material.
3. *Divergent Questions* that cause students to ask, "what if."
4. *Higher Order Questions* that require deeper thought than recall.
5. *Affective Questions* that allow students an opportunity to explore how they feel.

Examples of these questioning types and more information:

<http://www.lamission.edu/devcom/ProbingQuestions.htm>

Remember...there are a lot of people that will support you! Call, text or email me any questions or items that are making you feel overwhelmed:  
Leigh Brandon, 870-367-4836 (office), 870-208-6653 (cell), [Leigh.brandon@searkcoop.com](mailto:Leigh.brandon@searkcoop.com)