

Defining Effective Pedagogy

Effective pedagogy to develop the intellectual citizen of the future has the following qualities:

- It keeps learning objectives in mind (for the assignment and for the course, and possibly for the major and for the college or university).
- It encourages a variety of learning activities, including group work, problem-based learning, project-based learning, and play.
- It encourages deep and meaningful engagement with the content of the course.
- It encourages the practice of higher-order thinking skills, including especially application, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis.
- It encourages student engagement, collaboration, and group work and leadership.
- It encourages students to think critically, to think creatively, and to think independently.
- It provides frequent instances of formative and summative feedback, with a focus on faculty providing opportunities to improve skills and understanding through encouraging guidance.
- It encourages metacognition about the discipline, the subjects of the course, and the teaching and learning processes.
- It encourages students to recognize connections between the class and other disciplines, and to the world outside the classroom.
- It encourages students to conduct research in their chosen disciplines.
- It encourages excellent and sustained learning practices and habits.
- It reflects awareness of established and new research into effective teaching practices.