DEALING WITH STUDENTS’ SHORT ATTENTION SPANS

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Attention span from students nowadays are very hard to keep, let alone get them and that’s another issue. There are teachers who are gifted in getting attention of students in their class but keeping the attention concentrated for the whole duration of the class is a herculean task.

There are several factors that contribute to the short attention span of students. One is that they are preoccupied with matters other than what is being discussed. Another could be that their gadgets kept on vibrating in their pockets that they are secretly having conversation with someone else. Or the student is hungry and is already fantasizing about what to eat in the cafeteria. Much more seeing their crush on queue in the cafeteria buying their snacks. Maybe that the teacher is boring in the manner of speaking or delivering the lesson. There are so much factors to consider why the student is physically present but mentally absent inside the class. Their minds are all wandering in a dream land which the teacher or the classroom are not connected in any way at all.

At the end of the teacher, this is a huge challenge. How can the teacher get attention of the students? Another follow up question is how can the teacher keep the attention he/she got in the beginning of the lesson?

By asking experienced teachers we can get a lot of suggestions on how to deal with student attention span. One tip is to make sure that the students are comfortable and at ease inside the classroom. A distressed student will never be able to learn anything at all. Another would be that the teacher must put up a show that hooks the students from beginning to end. Becoming animated, funny at direct to the point at times can be a great way to get and keep student attention.
Pathways 2 Success gave a list on how to deal with students attention issues. Here are some of them:

Give clear directions – this helps the students have a good sense on what to achieve and what to dismiss.

Students must check on themselves – students must develop to ability to perform self-evaluation so that they themselves can see how far they have gone and how far they must still go to get to the finish line.

Have breaks in between lessons – information overload is evident if there are so much to learn in every hour. How the body needs a break from physical activities, so does the brain.

Incorporate student interests – one sure way to get attention is to cater to their attention.

Make them work – integrate hands on work where students can move around and work on their hands and as well as their feet. Being seated for long hours is boring.

Incorporate visual aids – the learner needs to use multisensory to learn. Try to include not just visuals but also auditory materials.

There are so many tips in teaching world that is sure to aid the educators in ensuring the success of their lessons. We can have dozens of best practices that propose classroom success. But, in the end of it all only the teacher can decide which strategy, approach or method best suits the students. The teacher must be able to see the individualities of the students. By knowing the students, the teacher can craft a tailor fit lesson for them. By then classroom success can be achieved.

References:

Pathways 2 Success, (2019), Strategies for learners with attention issues, Adulting Made Easy, retrieved from https://www.facebook.com/spedadulting/photos/a.2297445313814018/2826629570895587/?type=3&theater