



IM
TIS

IMPROVING ACADEMIC TEACHING



Improving Academic Teaching

Instructor Enthusiasm

Wá^ai [YegYwfa` eXdWZS U` YfSUZ]` YS V^sd [YsdWwWfa dM[a` eaXZw ;` fcdUfad5agdW7hS`gS[a` /;57fi S [` fcdg_ WfSVabfWXdZwWsgS[a` aXfSUZ]` YsfES[f ? SdæG` [hW]fkS VTSa` fZWEfgWwfa 7hS`gS[a` aX7VgLSf[a` S^CgS[fk/E77Cfz W57 XufadefSUZ]` Y[` fa` [` Wá_ ba` Wfd WZf aXi Z[UZ.bch[WwXd_ Sf[hW] Xd_ Sf[a` fZfUS` TW geWfa [bchWwSUZ]` YS V^sd [` Yz

Wá^ai [YegYwfa` ei WwSVsfWtkBchXead: WwWfI ž? SdZi G` [hW]fk aXi WwW Ekv WZ? SdZgd 3gedS[S/WwWabWiaXZWE77Cfii [fZbW] [e[a` Xa_ , 6Sh[d 4ž9žI aaV >ž` I [ea` lDž/#*%ž345eaXfSUZ]` Yi [fZ 7j UwwUw/fSUZ]` Y;` `ahsf[a` S V7hS`gS[a` EwhUwG` [hW]fk aX5S[Xad [ž? [adUZS Yw[` S` YgSWw Ww SWWtkBchXead4WwWk 5S_ Wá` /G` [hW]fkfSUZ]` YEWUwG` [hW]fk aX? S [faTSifa ~f fZW5S SV[S` Ua` fWž fSUZ]` Yf[be[edWd` fWi [fZbW] [e[a` ž

Current resources related to the eight formative ICE factors are available from the Office of Instructional Development, Saint Mary's University. Copies of the ICE questionnaire are available from the Senate Office.

Instructor Enthusiasm (ICE Factor 2): A minimal condition for learning is that attention be aroused. The extent to which a stimulus (i.e., actions by a teacher) stands out against a background is known to be crucial in evoking interest and attention. It is to be expected, therefore, that teachers who impress students with their enthusiasm, dynamism and energy and who make judicious use of humour will have students who are interested and attentive. Moreover, teacher enthusiasm can vicariously induce enthusiasm for the subject in students. Highly rated teachers are more likely to serve as models for student behaviour toward a subject. Thus, a teacher's enthusiasm can be acquired by students. Students whose interest in and enthusiasm for a subject are aroused are likely to learn more about the subject. The instructor's enthusiasm is especially relevant to the principle that learners must be motivated to learn.

4 Vary the pace and type of instructional activities in a course

A`WUWWf fSUZWeSk efZSf ZW`a` VgUe VSUZ USee` WU` YV| WUW`k zfa] WU`_ k efgWwfea
TS`S` U` EfgWwfeS1 Ske]` ai i ZSf fab|Ui [^TW`ahWUW` S Y|hW`e`a` S`ZV`Sk`e`zTgf fZW`Va` f`
S1 Ske]` ai Zai [fi [^TVZS` V`WŠ

3` 7` Y[eZ fSUZWS`ea TW`WWfZSf Z|ei [WWS`d`Wk`a`X`fSUZ]` Y`e`f`S`W`U`S`U`ag` fe`X`d`Z`|e`Z`|`Z`
d`f`|` Yea` [f`WUW`|` Y`e`k`V`a`X`b`d`W`U`S`f`a` ž`z;` d`S`V`i` Z`S`f`W`U`|` U`S` ~` V`a` f`S`U`Z`|` Y`|` _`k`V`|e`|b`|` W`
S` V` ;` T`a`d`h`i` e`Z`S`_` W`a`e`k`X`a`_` a`f`Z`W`|` e`f`g`U`f`a`c`i` Z`W`|`f` U`a`_` W`f`a` b`W`S`Y`a`|`U`S`^`e`f`d`f`W`U`S`

Ea`_` V`a`X`Z`W`S`d`S`f`|`a` e`g`e`W`T`k` WUWWf fSUZWe`|` U`g`W`W`f`g`W`W`f`b`S` W`W`|e`g`e`|`a`` d` Y`g`W`f` d`b`S`|` W`U`
e`|`W`U`~`^` d` a`h`W`U`S`V`f`d`S` e`b`S`d`W`U`W`T`S`U`|` T`a`S`d`V`i` a`d` i` [f`Z`U`a`^`a`d`W`U`Z`S`|`|` d`a`W`|`S`k`|` Y`S` V`
e`|`_`g`S`f`|`a`` d`S` V`S`i` [W`W`S`d`W`k`a`X`Y`c`a`g`b`V`|e`g`e`|`a`` f`W`Z`|`c`g`W`Š

5 Begin your lecture with a “joke of the week,” especially in large early Monday morning classes

A`W`U`g`d`U`S`V`_` [f`e`f`Z`S`f`Z`|e`|`a`|` W`S`d`W`b`d`W`k` T`S`V` T`g`f`~` V`e`f`Z`S`f` e`f`g`W`W`f`e`S`b`b`d`U`S`f`V`Z`|e`W`a`d`e`
S` k`i` S`ž`z;` Z`S`f`W`|` a` V`S`k`e`S` V` ;` Z`S`f`W`S`d`k`_` a`d`|` Y`e`W`U`W`_` a`d`W`|`3`|`a`|` W`U`S`f`W`f`a` f`Z`W`|`a`g`e`W`U`a`` f`W`U`
f`a` W`g`U`S`f`|`a`|` a`d`f`a`|`X`V` Y`W`U`S`^`f`W`W`e`f`a` Z`W`b` Y`W`U`W`k`a`` V`S`i` S`|` W`Š

W`a`g`d`W`a`X`Z`|e`|`a`|` W`|` z`a`` W`a`g`d`W`e`f`Z`W`f`g`W`W`f`e`f`Z`W`e`W`U`Z` ;` W`|`a`g`d`S`Y`W`f`g`W`W`e`f`a` T`d`|` Y`_` W`
|`a`|` W` ;` U`S` g`e`W` ;` f`Z`S`f` i` S`k`_` k`R`I`S`V`|`a`|` W`S`d`W`Z`M`|`R`I`S`V`|`a`|` W`S`e`i` W`Š

6 Invite guest speakers to your course

3` 7` Y[eZ b`d`X`W`a`d`e`a` W`|` W`|` h`|`f`W`b`d`X`W`|`a` S`^`S`U`f`a`c`e`f`a` f`S`|` S`T`a`g`f` f`Z`W`|`|` f`W`b`d`W`S`f`|`a`` a`X`S`
d`U`W`W`a`d`S`d`a`W`U`a`_` S`b`S`k`f`Z`W`f`g`W`W`f`e`S`d`W`f`g`V`k`|` Y`ž`z;` f`e`h`W`k`|`_` b`a`d`S` f`f`a`_` S`|` W`U`S`d`f`a` S`Y`g`W`f`
i` Z`S`f` k`a`g` W`b`W`f` a`X`Z`|`_` a`d`Z`W`|`_` a`d`W`f`a` W`e`g`d`W`Z`S`f` f`Z`W`U`S`e`|e`S` W`g`U`S`f`|`a`` S`^`W`b`W`|`W`U`W`k`a`d`k`a`g`d`
e`f`g`W`W`f`e`Š`z`

z;` S`1` S`k`e`f`S`|` W`U`S`f`|`W`` a`f`W`V`g`d`|` Y`S`Y`g`W`f` W`|`g`d`W`Š`e`S`k`e`S`b`d`X`W`a`d`|` 4`|`a`^`a`|`U`S`^`E`U`W`U`W`z;` f`Z`S`f`
i` S`k` ;` S`_` S`T`W`a`S` e`|` W`f`e`g`W`W`f`c`g`W`|`a`` e`S`T`a`g`f` f`Z`W`_` S`f`W`S`^`V`g`d`|` Y`S`f`W`e`W`|`a`` e`S` V`_` S`k` W`S`d`
e`a`_` W`Z`|` Y`` W`_` k`e`W`Š

3` 3`d`Z`|`f`W`g`d`W`b`d`X`W`a`d`f`S`|` e`f`a` Y`g`W`f` d`b`S`|` W`|`i` W`|` S`V`h`S` U`W`a` f`Z`S`f` f`Z`W`|`` ai` W`U`S`f`k`i` Z`S`f`|e`
W`b`W`W`a`X`Z`W`ž`z`B`d`S`U`|`U` Y`S`d`Z`|`f`W`e`S`d`W`S`e`|` W`f`a` e`g`T`_` [f`i` a`d`|` Y`V`d`i`|` Y`d`_` a`W`U`b`Z`a`f`a`d`
S` V`b`g`T`|`U`S`f`|`a`` e`a`` a`` V`a`X`Z`W`|`T`g`|`V`|` Y`e`a` f`Z`S`f` e`f`g`W`W`f`e`U`S` T`W` W`S`U`c`g`S`|` f`W`i` [f`Z`f`Z`W`|`d`i` a`d`
T`W`a`d`W`S` V`Š

z`E`f`g`W`W`f`e`S`d`W`S`e`|` W`f`a` e`g`T`_` [f`S`e`W`a`X`c`g`W`|`a`` e`f`a` S`Y`g`W`f` d`b`S`|` W`|`i`W`U`a`d`W`S` V`S`T`a`g`f` Z`|e`Z`W`|`i` a`d` ž`
6`W`Y` S`f`W`e`g`W`W`f`e`S`d`W`|`h`W`d`W`b`a`` e`|`|`|`f`k`f`a` e`W`Z`S`f` f`Z`W`c`g`W`|`a`` e`S`d`W`S`V`d`e`W`f`a` f`Z`W`b`S`|` W`Š
[e`b`d`X`W`a`d`S`e`a`_` S`|` W`S`b`a`|` f`f`a` L`a``~`d`_` f`Z`W`|`_` V`S` V`b`S`U`a`X`Z`W`|`g`W`f`e`b`d`W`U`S`f`|`a`|` b`c`h`|`W`U`
S`_` S`b`a`X`Z`W`S`_` b`g`e`d`S`d`S` Y`W`X`a`d`U`S`_` b`g`e`b`S`d`|` Y`i`S` V`b`d`a`_` b`f`k`e`W`e`V`S`U`Z`d`b`S`|` W`S`f`Z`S`|` ž`k`a`g`
^`W`U`W`Š

7. Focus your lectures around a common object, event, or phenomenon which exemplifies the major concepts of the course

3 WfgdWf` fZV[a^aY[LS^EUWUUS^efZ[eZ[eZbaSfa WfgdWz4[a^aYk[eS Wb[dUS^V[d]b` W [f WbWWea` aTeWfSfa` S V[hWf[YSfa` ž; bSeagf bafSfaWfa S^)" " efgWwfe[fZWUSeeS V TM` SEaUSf[UV[S^aYgWSTagf fZW[VeaxZ] YefZWUS` aTeWfWSTagf fZVdbafSfaž; ZShWfa ahMLa_ WZVdbdWageYbWfWUUS` ZWjB`S[` ež z3`fZagYZ bafSfaWsdW` [fSdaTWfefa fZW[fZW/fZWfgWwfeVa` f ZShWZVWY[Wf [Wsi ZSf S bafSfa [ež; efdWei ZSf kag US` YW/Xa_ WkKSk YbWfWUWtkSe[YfZV[YZf cgWf[a` ež; ba^efgWwfea` fZVdaTeWfSfa` d ZWb fZW Se[cgWf[a` eS VVWUdTW SkefZWUag`V[hWf[YSfVS` ei Wž 3` [fWfU[hWfWU[eVScag` VS Ua_ a` bZWa_ Wa` fWwefa fZS[fZVUWTV WWSLg`fkS VefgWwfeWV[S`SdWfWgdW UagdaW/3XWfZWfWgdWea_ WfgWwfeLaa] fZVdbafSfaW`S VafZWeb`S f fZW`ž? a` fZe`SfW; e[^YWefabbWtk efgWwfei Zai S f fa fW_ VZai fZVdbafSfaWsdWa[Yž

8 Begin class with an incident, example, or anecdote to get your students' attention

3 WfgdWf` : [fack aXWTW` eTk dWV` YS`agVS eZad bSeSYWka_ Sbd_ Sck eagdWadS eack fa [^gefSfWZW` SadfZW` Vadba[f[fZVWfWgdW/z8adV`S_ b`W; eSd agf Tk eSf[YfZSf fZW I [fSd aXAI [eSbSfTW`adbcaYde[h_e S VdWbSeSYWka_ [f fa [^gefSfW` k_ SadfZW[ež; fZWYW` k efgWwfeVa` ZWb [Wf[X`fZW[WfWf USdUfW`S` Vi ZSf fZW`dWdWfž; gegS`k WW i [fZScgafSfa` fZSf bg^efaWZVli ZSf; ZShWTV fck[Yfa eSž 3`ea i ZVWfWbae[TW; fck fa ↑] fZWbSf i [fZ UgdWf WfWf d fa eZai Zai fZWab[U[e_ badS f XcdfZWbdWfž

9 “Open with gusto” and “Finish strong”

BaXWadA f[e>S Ue fWaXZVG` [hWf[k aXBW` ek1S` [Sba[feagf fZVMS` fSYWax[h` YbWMS` fZagYZf fa TM[` [YS` VWM` YWUZ` WfgdW/z` VabW[YeZag`V eWgdWfgWwfa SffWf[a` S V Y[hWZW` fZVWfWdW_ WIS^eWž 9 Wfa fa SYaaV eSdž 6 a ea_ WZ[Yfa Ua_ _ S` VSffWf[a` Xa_ fZVagfWž Bgf bg` UZ[fa kagdabW[Yž

z Sh[Yea_ Wad_ aXffWf[a` ŽWfWZS YSVW`adb[WVaxZSMi SdW ZaeVabWf[a` WbWWe gba` fZWbd[Ub`WaxZWSke`Wea` gegS`k WUfWfSffWf[a` ž 5SdW`k b`S` WcgWf[a` ead eSfW` WfeUS` S`ea WfWab fZWUgdafk` WUeSck fa YWfgWwfa SffWf[a` ž

zUf[a` [eS1 SkeS` SffWf[a` ŽWfWZ; Xkag[fWwfa geWZSf ead_ aWw`XdWw`a` efdSf[a` I ZShWZVWsd[Wfa fZVka` f aXZVUS`eS`WfgWwfeSdW`eW`TW` ad] WfWZSdeUahWfWg` f[^ USeeSdž [ei [^gegS`ki ZWfgWwfa Ugdafk`S` V_ S] WZW` WfWf a`W` ZSf [eYa[Yfa ZSbbWž

z WWM[Y[eSe_ badS` f SefZVWV[` [Yž 6 a` f W`S`USeeW`a` XWV` fa` a` W`eWUW/? S] W S` [bde[hWWM[Yž 8adV`S_ b`WMMVi [fZ`/#fS`cgWf[a` XcdfZWUSefa UaYfSfVS` VS` ei Wf TW`dW`Wf_ Wf` Y-/SfS`cgafSfa` Ua` hWf` YfZVW`eWf[S^fZW`W`%fS`eg_ _ Sck`/8fS_ [[SfgdW dWV`/] Wf [fTqV`g` ad' fii ZSf fa Va TW`dWZV`Wf USeež /8ch_ >S` UeW`A f[e 7ž 7 Wf[hW FWSUZ[YS` V>Wd [Yf @ž 9 ad`a` S` V4dSUZi #+) & bbž#SSž&fž

10 Learn to vary the pitch or inflection of your voice

;XefgWwfeUa_bS\` fZSf kag`WfgdW` S_ a`afa` Wkag_ Ski S` f fa fck a` WafZWa`ai [` Y
fS] [` YebWZ `Wa` d`a] [` YS` adS [LSf[a` `] WfaSef_ SefWf fS] [` YSf] ` Y`Wa` d`a] [` Y/ad
adS [l] ` YfSbaWk adVdS_ SdSM` YYagbl ade_ b`k bdfU[` YdSM` YS`agVfa kagdWad
_ WTWbaXkagdS_ [kz` 7SUZ aXZWW` WZaVeZSeTWw geW WwW]hWk Tk a` Vad_ adWG` [hW]fk
aX5S]Xd [S`Z4W] WkXUg`fkz`

A` WwfgdUa_ T] ` WebWZ `Wa` ei [fZ 4[TWdSM` YeSf Z[eUZgdZi [fZ YaaV WwWz` 3` afZW
faa] S` Suf] YUSea` U_ bgeVgd` YfZWg_ _ W`S V` af a` k_ bcahWZ[ehaUS` WwWk [`
fZ WUSecha_ Tgf WakWZ]_ eWSei Wz` EMM` ^WfgdW` dUa_ WwW a] [` YSbaWkZdSM` Y
Yagbz` zDWM` YbaWk S`agVLS` TWbSd]Ug` Sdk ZWbX` ^TWsgeWbaWk Wg]d` YdSfW` haLS`
[` eW]a` Xad]fe_ W` [` Yfa TWa_ WwWdS` a` Ws]Vz` DWM` Yb`SkeS`agVi [fZ X]WweadS_ [k US
S`ea TW` WakST`W` W` eaXbdfU[` YhaUS` hSc]Wkz`

11. Wear a microphone and remember to “talk to the back row” if you have a tendency to speak too softly.

4kdW WTW` Yfa fS] fa fZVISU] dai l kag i [^TW_ adM] Wk fa SVsf kagdha[UWfa YhgbeaX
V] WwW e] Wz` @afVZai WwW fZSf SfZagYZ kag i S` f fa bcaWf kagdha[UWfa fZVISU] dai kagdWw
Ua` fSf] [fZ efgWwfeeZag`VhSckahWwW` ^eW]a` eaXZVha_ z;`Xkag`aa] Sf fZVISU] dai Se
i W`SefS] fa [ft kag i [^SbbWdYUW]hWk V]eS` fS` VXad_ S`z`

12 Build deliberate and purposeful pauses into your lectures

3 Laa`aYk bcaXW` aded` WwWZW_ badS` UaXZWbSgeWSeSd` ZWad]US` WwWUz] ZW; i S` f
fa WbzSe] Wsba] ft; S1 SkebSgeVg` f] ^fZVSe] WwW]eS`ea`gfWk e] WwW/f_ S] W_ k efgWwfe
g` Ua_ XadST`Wz` Wi ZW; ZshWZM]Xg` ^SfWf]a` l; bcaUWfa_ S] WZVba] fS`

13 Practice your lecture communication skills in front of a mirror:

[edUa_ WwSf]a` Ua_ W`Xa_ SbaXW` adaXLa`aYki Zai SeSUZS_b]a` WwSfW] Ua` WwW
z7hWfaVSk; XWgWf`k dZVSW` kUSecha_ `WfgdW` addWwSLZ bcaWfSf]a` e] ` Xa` faXZVW
_ [dcaZ` AXLagdeWkag i S` f fa Va fZ[e] ` bcl]SfW; f_ S] Wkag hWk eWZLa` e] UageSf` ~dfl Tgf; ~` V
[fS` WwWwW i Sk fa bdfU[UWa_ _ g` [LSf]a` e] [^eS`

14 Make diagnostic and practice audio tapes

3 fZagYZ fZVg]Va cgS]fk aX_ af Za_ WsVdWdM] `Ye[e` af YaaV WagYZ fa V]SY aeW` Wba]` fe
aXb]fUZ] [` eW]a` l Sd]Ug` Sf]a` l S` Vbca` g` U]Sf]a` l [f US` TWgeW WwW]hWk fa` afW ZWZWkag
ebW] faa` eai` k adfaa` cb]Vh i ZWZWkag hSck kagdfa` W`S V] ` eW]a` eg` U]Wf`k fa Za` V kagd
efgWwfa SffWf]a` S` V Ua_ _ g` [LSfW` W` [` Y] S` Vi ZWZWkag Sd]Ug` SFW` Sdk S` V` ad` Xad]Ug` k
WagYZ fa TWZVd` S` Vg` WwWfaVz`

