

### Introduction

The Seven Principles of Good Practice, developed by Arthur Chickering and Zelda Gamson, are skills that teachers can use to improve their teaching as well as their students' learning. Originally published in 1987, these seven principles are the result of fifty years of research for evaluating teaching in higher education. They can be implemented in any learning environment.

### 1. Encourages Contact Between Students & Faculty

Regular contact between students and faculty improves students' learning. When faculty members reach out to students, and provide them with encouragement, support and assistance, the students' motivation and commitment to their education increases.

Examples:

- Get to know the names of the students
- Maintain communication with students, such as through email
- Make sure each student understands the course goals and objectives.

### 2. Develops Student Reciprocity & Cooperation

#### Develops Reciprocity and Cooperation Among Students

Providing opportunities for students to work together on assignments teaches them about collaboration and team work. They feel more involved when participating in a group. Also, as students share and listen to one another's viewpoints within the group, their own sense of understanding deepens and their learning improves.

Examples:

- On the first day of class, have students get to know one another through games/activities
- Assign group projects
- Encourage students to study in groups as they prepare for exams

### 3. Encourages Active Learning

Students need more than just listening to the teacher's lectures and regurgitating the teacher's words onto the examinations. They must become more active, engage in the learning process and be able to apply what they learn in the classroom to their every day lives. Students must be given opportunities to analyze and evaluate their learning and to discuss their findings.

Examples:

- Assign students research projects
- Have students give presentations
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in class, such as discussions

### 4. Gives Prompt Feedback

Continuous assessment is necessary for successful teaching and learning. By providing immediate constructive feedback, teachers give students opportunities to reflect on and improve their work.

Examples:

### 5. Emphasizes Time on Task

Teaching students to use their time effectively allows them to perform better in their learning.

Examples:

- Make sure students understand an assignment, so they don't waste their time figuring things out
- Explain to your students how much time you expect them to work on an assignment

### 6. Communicates High Expectations

Teachers need to set high expectations in their classrooms. With higher expectations, students place more effort in their work.

Examples:

- Tell students your expectations of the course
- Explain the consequences when assignments are not completed

### 7. Respects Diverse Talents & Ways of Learning

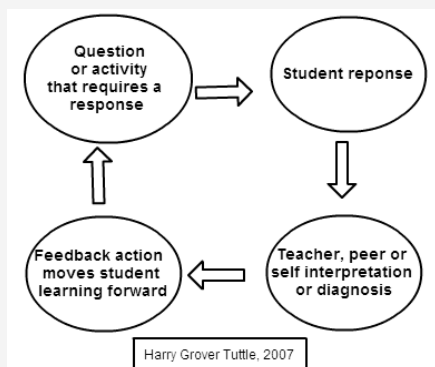
Every classroom will consist of students with diverse learning styles, so it is vital to provide them with opportunities to learn using the styles they are most comfortable with. Also, presenting different learning styles may help students discover which technique works best for them.

Examples:

- Provide multiple options, students may use to complete an assignment
- Present information in a variety of ways

- Have students submit drafts of their papers before the final is due
- Return graded assignments as soon as possible (for example, one week after they were submitted)
- Write suggestions on improvement on students' work

#### Prompt Feedback Diagram



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