

# Teaching Learning Center

## CONDUCTING CLASS

A study was conducted to settle the debate over whether the lecture is the most effective way to deliver material to students. Ken Bain, author of "What the Best College Teachers Do," uncovered seven fairly common principles among the teachers studied.

1. **Create a Natural Critical learning Environment:** "Natural" because students encounter the skills, habits, attitudes, and information they are trying to learn embedded in questions and tasks they find fascinating." "Critical" because students learn to think critically, to reason from evidence, to examine the quality of their reasoning using a variety of intellectual standards, to make improvements while thinking, and to ask probing and insightful questions about the thinking of other people." Some teachers are able to create this environment with their lectures while others use discussions, role playing, field work, or a variety of other techniques to achieve this environment.
2. **Get Students' Attention and Keep It:** Teachers are most successful when beginning a class with "a provocative question or problem that raises issues in ways that students had never thought about before, or by using stimulating case studies or goal-based scenarios."
3. **Start with the Students Rather Than the Discipline:** Socrates used this method as explained by Michael Sandel, a Harvard political theorist, "by attending to what people thought they knew, and then he tried to gradually and systematically to wrench them from their familiar place." This forces the students to grapple with an issue from their own perspective, prior to them knowing much about it, getting them to articulate a position.
4. **Seek Commitments:** This is often carried out on the first class day. Teachers lay out the plans, promises, and commit to making the course worthwhile, and then invite the students to make a commitment to the learning objectives and to attend class.
5. **Help Students Learn Outside of Class:** Teaching students material that will best help and encourage them to learn outside of class is much more beneficial than teaching material simply because it's traditional or because it covers a subject.
6. **Engage Students in Disciplinary Thinking:** Ken Bain notes "the most effective teachers use class time to help students think about information and ideas the way scholars in the discipline do." They don't concentrate on only teaching their discipline; they focus on "teaching students to understand, apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate evidence and conclusions."
7. **Create Diverse Learning Experiences:** "The brain loves diversity," as stated by Jeanette Norden. The best teachers seemed to offer a nice balance between the systematic approach and the creative, non-traditional approach.

*From "What the Best College Teachers Do," Ken Bain  
(First printing: TLC Newsletter, September 2009)*



### ANALOG TO DIGITAL SHIFT:

- ◆ Convert old vinyl records to digital format and burn them to a CD.
- ◆ Convert old cassette tapes to digital format and burn them to a CD.
- ◆ Convert old VHS tapes to digital format which can be edited and burned to a DVD.
- ◆ Use the freeware application, Audacity to record and edit audio.
- ◆ Scan photos which can be edited and burned to a CD.



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### SUDOKU

Fill in the missing numbers so every row, column and quadrant contains the numbers 1 through 9.

*“The brain loves diversity.”*

*- Jeanette Norden, “What the Best College Teachers Do”*

CEDAR VALLEY COLLEGE

Teaching Learning Center

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## WEAVE ONLINE: THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

As you finish entering all of your Student Learning Outcome information, assessment data, and target information in to WEAVE Online here are a few things to keep in mind.

- ◆ For **ALL** data at the course level, your SLO's **MUST** be entered under the **Outcome/Objective** area. There should be **NO** information entered at this time in the **Goals** area. (Goals will only be entered at the program level.)
- ◆ The ability to delete information has been granted to the WEAVE administrators in the TLC and to the division secretaries. The secretaries have made the decision whether to extend this ability to the coordinators. If you are a coordinator and do not have the ability to delete, ask your division secretary to grant you **entity administrator** access.
- ◆ Be sure to click **Final** and **Save** so the reviewers are able to add comments or suggestions to the information you have entered. This will also show that the information is **Complete** on the report generated by the administrators through WEAVE Online.
- ◆ Make sure there is an **Achievement Target** entered for every **Measure**.

**Have a Safe and Happy Spring Break!**  
(March 15th - 21st)