

Ten Tips To Teaching Technical Topics

Setting Expectations: It's important to set clear expectations at the beginning of a delivery. This includes discussing the agenda, ground rules, and course objectives.

Getting Expectations: Asking participants for their expectations during class introductions will assist in predicting their learning needs. This will create a more engaging and effective learning environment.

Be Confident and Clear: Confidence and clarity in your presentation will make a significant difference. Practice your introduction and pacing to ensure you come across as confident and well-prepared.

Keep It Simple: Avoid overcomplicating topics. Use simple and clear communication to convey your message effectively.

Engage with the Audience: Turn statements into questions to facilitate discussion. Example: "There are many data types." could be "What are some data types?" This will help keep the audience interested and involved in the session.

Let the Slides be your Guide: Do not read from the slides. They should primarily be used to guide the conversation. Instead explain what is on the slide and discuss it with the students.

Tell a Story: People learn better through stories or analogies. Use previous experiences with the technology or ask students for their experiences to further improve engagement.

What's In It For Me (WIIFM): Explain to students why the material matters to them. Why is it important? Make the lesson relevant to the audience by relating it to their needs and experiences. Demonstrating the benefits will also help engage learners.

Tell them, Teach them, Tell them again (TTT): This sets the expectations of what will be learned in each lesson. Hearing or seeing the material multiple times will help students retain the information.

Ask Open-ended Questions for Feedback: Instead of asking, "Does anyone have any questions?" which could be answered with a yes or no answer, try "What questions does anyone have?". This will lead to more student engagement.