

FOSTERING STUDENT MOTIVATION: REFLECTING ON TEACHER EXPERIENCES AND BUILDING AWARENESS OF MOTIVATION-RELATED FACTORS

To begin this month's Teacher's Corner, we will think about motivation and our own language learning experiences, review factors that can affect student motivation, and reflect on how we currently address student motivation in our classrooms and what we might do differently in the future.

You can do this reflection activity on your own or with a group of fellow teachers. If you work in a group, you might learn a few new motivational techniques from your colleagues!

GOALS

Teachers will:

- Reflect on what motivated them during their own language learning experiences
- Increase their awareness of factors that affect student motivation by reviewing and reflecting on a list of questions related to:
 - Instructional design
 - Promoting learner autonomy
 - Creating a positive classroom environment and culture
 - Teacher behavior and professional knowledge

MATERIALS

- Teacher:
 - Blank paper
 - Pencil or pen
 - A timing device, watch, or clock
 - Reflection worksheet (provided)

PROCEDURES

1. Print out and complete the reflection worksheet. Discuss your responses with colleagues if working in a group.
2. If desired, write a short reflective journal entry or personal action plan based on what you learned from this activity.
3. Review the additional resources below related to building student motivation.
4. Smile! You just increased your professional knowledge and (we hope!) rekindled your enthusiasm about an aspect of teaching – both of which can contribute to building student motivation. 😊

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional **instructional design tips related to motivation**, check out these resources and many others available on the American English website:

- [November 2014 Content Spotlight](#) - using games in the classroom

- [June 2015 Teacher's Corner](#) - making learning fun with information gap activities
- Webinars in the [American English webinar series](#), including:
 - Podcasting for the Classroom – building 21st-century skills, personalizing learning, and supporting learner autonomy (see PDF to download)
 - [Lesson Planning 101](#) – objectives-focused planning, incorporating student interests, using a variety of materials, involving students in assessment
 - [Adapting Materials to Meet Your Classroom Needs](#) – creating materials that incorporate student interests, student preferences, and culturally relevant content

For more ideas about **promoting a positive classroom environment and classroom management** see the [April 2015 Teacher's Corner](#).

Also, [English Teaching Forum](#) contains numerous journal articles related to motivation, including the **effects of teacher behavior, improving teacher subject-matter knowledge, and promoting learner autonomy**. **Build your professional knowledge** by searching the journal's [archive](#) for relevant articles!