

Opportunistic strategies do not happen every day, but when they do, you need to have a plan to insert them into your lessons. When you do them daily, they tend to be disengaging. Here are some ways to use them:

* Physical movement. Physical movement can further the students’ understanding of concepts.
* Humor. Humor can be in all forms as long as it can be brought back to the topic of the day.
* Games and competitions. Friendly games that will reinforce learning are especially good if they coincide with game days.
* Friendly controversy. Controversy could involve a game, but it could also be students taking a stand for or against a statement or proving/disproving a statement.
* Unusual information. Your students may have heard or read something without making the connection to your area of study. You can help them see how the information relates to their classroom work.
* [Higher order questions.](https://teachingcenter.wustl.edu/resources/refining-teaching-methods/asking-questions-to-improve-learning/)  Higher order questions can take time to develop, but you should use them, especially when coming to the end of a lesson.
* Application of knowledge. CTE teachers use a lot of hands-on work in classes, but they also need to show how critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity applies.
* Tracking progress. You track progress daily, but you need to teach the students to observe and track their own progress and to stop occasionally and reflect on how far they have come.
* Examples of self-efficacy. Students need to know what value they add to the class, and they sometimes need to be reminded to assess their own value.

Remember that variety is the spice of life and keeps you and the students engaged. Next week we will look at extended strategies.

Please take a few minutes to give me some feedback about the Teacher Tips to give valuable direction for the future of Teacher Tips. You will find a survey at

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/V9RK97M.