

Reconnecting

OVERVIEW

In any class that meets over time, it is helpful to spend a few minutes reconnecting with students after some time has elapsed between classes. In addition to helping students review, this activity also provides an opportunity to reflect on class experiences and course content.

PROCEDURE

1. Welcome students back to the class. Explain that you think it would be valuable to spend a few minutes becoming reconnected before proceeding with today's class.
2. Pose one or more of the following questions to the students:
 - What do you remember about our last class? What stands out for you?
 - Have you read/thought out/done something that was stimulated by our last class?
 - What interesting experience have you had between classes?
 - What's on your mind right now (e.g., a worry) that might interfere with your ability to give full attention to today's class?
 - How do you feel today? (It can be fun to use a metaphor, such as a "I feel like a bruised banana.")
3. Obtain responses using a "Think, Write, Pair, Share" format:
 - Ask students to **Think** about their individual responses to the questions
 - Ask students to **Write** down their individual responses to the questions
 - Ask students to form into **Pairs** to discuss their responses
 - Ask students to **Share** with the entire class the responses they discussed in their pairs.
 - Each pair can paraphrase what their partner said, or
 - The partners can report on the similarities and differences in their responses

Variation

Present two questions, concepts, or pieces of information covered in the previous class. Ask students to vote for the one they would most like you to review with the class. Review the winning question, concept, or information.

Source: Adapted from Silberman, M. (1996). *Active Learning: 101 Strategies to Teach Any Subject*. Needham, Massachusetts: Simon & Schuster.