

Creating Meaningful Teaching and Learning Experiences

Workshops for Tohoku University Faculty
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Friday July 15, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

“Why Do I Stand Up Here On My Desk?” Teaching Insights from the Movies

Hollywood has portrayed teachers with a variety of styles and strategies, strengths and weaknesses. In this session we'll look at movie clips from "Mona Lisa Smile," "Dead Poets Society," and others. We'll discuss the effectiveness of the teachers in these movies, and identify particular characteristics and approaches that we can incorporate into our own teaching.

Saturday July 16, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Get Rhythm: Keys to Intelligible Speech

"A pause in the wrong place, an intonation misunderstood, and a whole conversation went awry" (E.M. Forster, *Passage to India*, 1924). In this session we will examine key features of English speech that affect intelligibility and communicative concord among speakers from different linguistic backgrounds in the classroom context.

Stand and Deliver: Oral Presentation Skills

Academics are called upon to present information not only in the classroom but also at conferences and meetings. In this session, participants will learn about common pitfalls that lead to listener boredom or confusion, and take part in activities designed to enhance public speaking skills.

Effective Classroom Questioning

This session focuses on the development of skill in asking and answering questions in class. Research results have established that effective questioning contributes to student learning. Hansen (1994) talks about four questioning practices that can help students learn:

- Deciding on the type of question to obtain the desired thinking outcomes;
- Phrasing questions so that they are clear and focused;
- Probing the responses; and
- Creating the classroom environment for the type of interaction needed for the desired level

of student engagement.

Active Learning, Cooperative Learning, and Classroom Assessment Techniques

Students learn best when they are actively engaged with the material – beyond listening to a lecture. In this session we will consider these questions: How can instructors promote active learning in their classrooms? What are the challenges and benefits of using active learning strategies? What are some best practices in implementing active learning?

Preparation for Microteaching

In this session we will discuss the microteaching assignment for the following day. We will also discuss issues related to giving and receiving feedback on one's teaching.

Sunday July 17, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Microteaching

Participants will give their prepared lessons and receive feedback.

Microteaching Debriefing

Participants will reflect on their individual and collective experience of microteaching.

Out of the Box: Thinking Differently About Teaching

“Good teachers are born, not made.” In this session we will examine and untangle this and two other common thoughts about teaching and learning. We will also consider practical strategies and new ideas that can make teaching more efficient and enjoyable.

(Note: The myths are “Good teachers are born, not made;” “It’s the students’ fault;” “I don’t have time to teach better.” I can send you my slides if you want more detail.)