

HOW TO USE RELEVANCE TO BOOST STUDENT MOTIVATION

SHORT-TERM MOTIVATORS RELEVANCE



Relevance: The state of **Why does this matter to me?** Or **Why is this important to know?**

RELEVANCE IMPACTS LEARNING AND MEMORY

- ✓ Cortisol, in moderate levels, is connected to improved motivation. Too much activates an unhealthy stress response. Too little, the edge is gone.
- ✓ The student asking, “Why do we have to do this?” is actually pretty smart. They are seeking what their brain craves: **relevance**.



The brain pays attention to things that ensure survival. Relevance is about helping students come to the conclusion of **“I NEED this!”**

STATEMENTS

THAT CAN FOSTER A STATE OF RELEVANCE

- “You might be wondering why this is important to learn. Let me tell you ...”
- “You’ll want this knowledge with you when you ...” (insert a situation that makes the content useful)
- “Knowing how to do this will help you when you ...”
- “Here is how I used this knowledge just this week ...”

STRATEGIES

THAT CAN FOSTER A STATE OF RELEVANCE

- Connect your content to a current issue that your students are passionate about – teen anxiety, social justice, etc.
- Relate your lesson to something from pop culture, sports, upcoming holidays, etc.
- Ask students to find a metaphor or analogy that connects the content to something they already know about.

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