

Checklist: Unlocking Engagement — Proven Methods to Get Every Student Involved

This checklist provides Introduction to Business instructors with practical, neuroscience-informed strategies to break through the participation wall, ensuring that all students are actively engaged and learning.

1. Set the Stage for Participation

- ☐ Establish clear expectations for participation in the syllabus.
- ☐ Use an icebreaker activity during the first class to build comfort.
- ☐ Create a respectful, inclusive environment that values diverse voices.

Classroom Activity: Run a 'Two Truths and a Business Dream' exercise where each student shares two facts about themselves and one career aspiration.

Reflection Question: How does feeling comfortable in class influence your willingness to speak up?

2. Use Structured Participation Techniques

- ☐ Implement think-pair-share to encourage contributions from all students.
- ☐ Rotate 'discussion leaders' so students guide conversations.
- ☐ Use polling tools (e.g., Mentimeter, Kahoot!) for anonymous input.

Classroom Activity: Pose a current business issue (e.g., ethical decision) and have students vote anonymously, then discuss results.

Reflection Question: Did anonymity make you more likely to participate? Why or why not?

3. Leverage Real-World Relevance

- ☐ Integrate recent news or case studies into discussions.
- ☐ Assign students to bring one business news article weekly to share.
- ☐ Relate topics to students' career interests and personal experiences.

Classroom Activity: 'Business News Anchors'—each class starts with 2–3 students presenting a news story.

Reflection Question: How do real-world stories make business concepts easier to understand?

4. Incorporate Technology for Engagement

- ☐ Use collaborative tools (Google Docs, Padlet) for group brainstorming.
- ☐ Employ discussion boards for quieter students to contribute asynchronously.
- ☐ Try gamified platforms like Quizizz or Classcraft to boost interaction.

Classroom Activity: Create a digital collaborative 'Business Model Canvas' for a startup idea.

Reflection Question: How did technology change your level of participation?

5. Recognize and Reward Participation

- ☐ Track contributions with a participation log or leaderboard.
- ☐ Offer small incentives like digital badges or bonus points.
- ☐ Provide specific, positive feedback when students contribute meaningfully.

Classroom Activity: Hold a 'Participation Challenge Week' where students earn points for contributing ideas, asking questions, or helping peers.

Reflection Question: Did recognition motivate you to participate more? Why?