

Unlocking Student Potential—18 Emotional Influences with Actionable Classroom Strategies

This checklist provides Introduction to Business instructors with 18 crucial emotional and psychological influences on student learning. Each influence is paired with a practical classroom activity and reflection questions to foster engagement, critical thinking, and personal growth.

1. Curiosity

Classroom Activity: Activity: Start each class with a provocative question tied to the day's topic.

Reflection Questions:

- What sparked your curiosity today?
- How can curiosity lead to deeper learning?

2. Motivation

Classroom Activity: Activity: Have students set personal learning goals for the semester and revisit them mid-course.

Reflection Questions:

- What motivates you to learn this material?
- How does connecting business concepts to your goals affect your engagement?

3. Confidence

Classroom Activity: Activity: Use low-stakes quizzes to build confidence before major exams.

Reflection Questions:

- How did today's activity help build your confidence?
- What areas still feel challenging?

4. Belonging

Classroom Activity: Activity: Create small learning groups that collaborate throughout the semester.

Reflection Questions:

- Did you feel connected to your group today?
- How does teamwork influence your learning?

5. Relevance

Classroom Activity: Activity: Ask students to connect today's concept to a real-world news story.

Reflection Questions:

- How is this concept relevant to current events?
- How does relevance affect your interest?

6. Stress Management

Classroom Activity: Activity: Begin class with a 2-minute mindfulness exercise before a big assignment.

Reflection Questions:

- How did stress impact your learning today?
- What strategies helped you stay focused?

7. Resilience

Classroom Activity: Activity: Assign a case study where initial solutions fail and require revision.

Reflection Questions:

- What did you learn from the setbacks?
- How can failure contribute to growth?

8. Autonomy

Classroom Activity: Activity: Allow students to choose one of three project topics.

Reflection Questions:

- How did having a choice affect your engagement?
- Would you like more autonomy in future tasks?

9. Growth Mindset

Classroom Activity: Activity: Share a story of a famous entrepreneur who overcame early failures.

Reflection Questions:

- What's one mistake that helped you learn?

- • How can adopting a growth mindset help you in business?

10. Purpose

Classroom Activity: Activity: Have students write a one-page reflection on how business connects to their life goals.

Reflection Questions:

- • Why does learning business matter to you?
- • How does this course help you pursue your purpose?

11. Collaboration

Classroom Activity: Activity: Organize a team project simulating a start-up pitch.

Reflection Questions:

- • What role did you play on your team?
- • How did collaboration affect the outcome?

12. Creativity

Classroom Activity: Activity: Run a brainstorming challenge where students design an innovative product idea.

Reflection Questions:

- • How did creativity enhance your understanding today?
- • What was your most innovative idea?

13. Empathy

Classroom Activity: Activity: Role-play a negotiation exercise with students taking opposing sides.

Reflection Questions:

- • What perspective did you gain from role-playing?
- • How does empathy shape effective communication?

14. Ethical Awareness

Classroom Activity: Activity: Debate a real-world ethical dilemma faced by a major company.

Reflection Questions:

- • What ethical principles guided your stance?
- • How might businesses balance profit and responsibility?

15. Sense of Achievement

Classroom Activity: Activity: Celebrate milestones by showcasing top student projects in class.

Reflection Questions:

- • What achievement are you most proud of this week?
- • How did recognition influence your motivation?

16. Engagement through Technology

Classroom Activity: Activity: Use Kahoot! quizzes to review concepts in a competitive format.

Reflection Questions:

- • How did technology impact your participation?
- • Do digital tools help you stay engaged?

17. Critical Thinking

Classroom Activity: Activity: Present a complex business problem and ask students to propose multiple solutions.

Reflection Questions:

- • What factors influenced your decision-making?
- • How did you weigh pros and cons?

18. Self-Reflection

Classroom Activity: Activity: End each class with a one-minute paper asking students to note their key takeaway.

Reflection Questions:

- • What's the most important thing you learned today?
- • What questions do you still have?