

# CFD: Friday Focus #1

Need some **spice** in your classes?  
Having trouble **engaging** your students in the learning?  
Looking for ways to **add life** to inherently dry content?

Each Friday, the Center for Faculty Development will send out some “test-driven” strategies for the classroom.

## Topics will include:

Questioning Strategies  
Encouraging Participation and Involvement  
Stimulating Class Discussion  
Using Technology for Learning  
Collaborative Learning  
Affective Learning  
Content Reviews  
Student Self Assessment  
First-Class Ice Breakers

On Friday mornings, look for “CFD Friday Focus” in the subject line of the email.

To start us off, here is an idea to encourage student participation and engagement:

## Pairs Response Cards

**Objective:** Students will collaboratively respond to important concepts in the learning.  
Students will learn from each other.  
Students will actively engage in learning.

## How to:

1. At the beginning of class, pass out small index cards, one to every two students. Students do not write names on cards.
2. Have students quietly collaborate and respond to one or two questions addressing an important concept in the lesson.
3. Take cards up and redistribute so that no pair receives their own card.
4. Depending on the size of the class, have students present responses and comment on/add to/agree or disagree with the response they received.
5. It is important to ask questions that require higher level thinking. Asks students to
  - a. apply learning by giving an example or application
  - b. analyze an idea by examining its components
  - c. evaluate an idea according to rules, principles, criteria
  - d. create new ideas by asking “What if . . .”

*Good teaching,*

*Sara*