

CFD: Friday Focus #4

How about more attention getters for the beginning of a lesson? Here are a few more ideas:

1. Begin with a visual, such as a picture, music, short video clip, or cartoon to gain student interest.
2. Check out www.refdesk.com. Lots of interesting things in all content areas for class starters: the astronomical picture of the day, quote of the day, what happened in history on this day, a little known fact, etc.
3. Start each lesson with something memorable about your subject area from which students can gain some insight or practical knowledge. (At the beginning of many classes, I present a “Teacher Thing” to my education students. This is a real-life story, with anonymous characters and setting, which provides some insight into what my students will experience when they become practicing teachers. Because the stories are about real teachers, real children, and real classrooms, they are alternately funny, serious, or poignant. Often the story is about a huge mistake I made when I was a brand new teacher in the early 1970s. What attention-getters those have proven to be!)

Good teaching,

Sara