

Five BIG Mistakes To Avoid

When Sparking Curiosity with Problem Based Lessons

1

Pre-Teaching

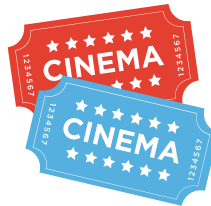
The most common mistake teachers make is to pre-teach all of the content up front so that students have the skills you want them to use in the problem. Avoid pre-teaching and instead spend time noticing & wondering. Your class will atmosphere will transform to allow students to have a stronger voice.



2

Giving Too Much Away

Curiosity is driven by a lack of information and a person's want to know that information. Avoid giving students details about the task until they make their own observations. Keeping this information back will engage your class at a deeper level. Think mystery movie versus information text.

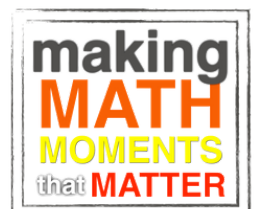


3

Guessing The Math

Say "No" to the guessing game! There's nothing more curiosity-stopping than lesson starter questions like "What questions can we ask?", "What math do you see?", "Where is the math in this image/video?"

Avoid asking them to see math. Fix: Just ask students to see, notice, and wonder. Opening the wondering up to not be just about math will allow math to be accessed by everyone.



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4

Too Speedy

Avoid poor class discussions. Don't be Too Speedy. Spend time using a Think, Pair Share structure during the notice and wonder stages of generating curiosity.



5

Avoid Quitting

Avoid quitting early. Remember intensity versus Consistency

Fix:

Make a schedule and stick to it. Don't break the chain. For example, Jerry Seinfeld said that he writes everyday. Not just when he feels inspired or ready to write. He writes everyday. And he focuses on marking each day off on the calendar. A big X right through the day. As he built up X's he didn't think of his goal of writing every day anymore, he just thought, "I can't break the chain" Breaking the chain meant that he would have to start all over again. Breaking the streak is a more powerful motivator than just "I have to write". So let's choose consistency over intensity --- "Don't Break The Chain".

TIP: Print out the "Don't Break The Chain Recording Sheet" to help stay focused and make building curiosity priority. Each day check off the elements you've included in your lessons....and then just don't break the chain.

*** We've included a few other elements into this document you'll learn about as we go through the course.

