

Tips for Teaching

By Donna MacGowan at YWAM Denver, Co., USA

Teaching to Reach Every Student

In Youth With A Mission, we accept many types and nationalities of students for our schools, and we want to make the learning experience as fruitful as possible. Please familiarize yourself with these “Tips for Teaching” at YWAM Denver.

Learning Styles

Students fall into different learning styles. Over the years, we have found that students relate better to teachers who address their learning style. We would like to ask that as you prepare to come and teach, you are considering how to incorporate different learning styles in your teaching, in order to be most effective. We recognize that all teachers have personal strengths, and we want you to employ them! Please also consider working outside your natural strengths to help students benefit the most from your wisdom and impartation. You may already be teaching to several styles!

- Auditory Learners (Listening: speech, music, stories)
- Visual Learners (Seeing: videos, power point, notes, pictures, diagrams)
- Kinesthetic Learners (Physically Interacting: role play, art, building, demonstrating)
- Relational Learners (Relating: sharing ideas & viewpoints, discussing)
- Visionary Learners (Dreaming: questioning, planning, exploring options)
- Factual Learners (Gathering Info: Facts, Sequential Thinking, Scriptures, Quotes)
- Practical Learners (Applying: How-to's, Skills, Application of Biblical Examples)

In addition, you may have noticed that some students are particularly responsive when asked to discuss lessons, while others are very quiet. You can tap into intelligences other than verbal through activities found in the pamphlet “Teaching Well” which can be found at:

<http://www.ywamdtcentre.com/resources/Rosalie.htm> This resource is organized by numbered weeks, but feel free to use any activity to stir things up!

English as a Second Language

In most of our schools, we have students whose primary language is not English. (In the Multicultural DTS, classes are translated into Korean, but there are many participants whose primary language is neither English nor Korean.) There are several things that you can do to help these students. Please consider:

- Using the white board or power point to list main points in your teaching
 - This helps students link what you are saying to the topic and the vocabulary that applies.
- Allowing students to respond to what God is doing in their own language, or a nonverbal method
 - Please use discussion (together as a class or in smaller groups), but also consider planning other response modes.
- Thinking through your illustrations to see if they apply cross-culturally, to kingdom culture
 - Some stories, jokes and side comments may be more distracting than helpful, especially if they need extensive explanation!

Appropriate Language

As a ministry, we would like to clarify that “from the pulpit”, while you are teaching, we cannot condone any questionable language. This has not been a problem for most of our speakers, but we want to hold this standard high in our community by keeping this “in the light”. Please review your videos, quotes and stories to comply with this request while you are serving at our base.

Projection Equipment

If you are planning to use power point, videos or audio, please communicate with the speaker coordinator regarding your needs, so that we can have the appropriate materials at hand. In addition, if your computer needs a unique adapter for the projection or sound equipment, please bring that piece of equipment with you.

Thank you for your willingness to serve our students and community!