



## Hidden Tips and a Secret Solution

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Each and every class period, you intentionally and unintentionally share valuable information or tips with your students that may not be directly part of the lesson plan. These tips are heard, but unless they are motivated to do so students do not try to retain them.

Here's a solution: offer your students an extra credit assignment to record these tips, categorize them, type them and submit them to you at the close of the term for points. During the first few classes, consciously try to be aware of tips as you say them to the class, and then remind the students who are interested to record them.



Here are some samples of categories and tips from my latest educational psychology class.

### **Time management**

- Implement special, highly motivational activities immediately at the beginning of class in order to encourage students to arrive at class on time.

### **Communications**

- Never answer a question that a student can figure out or receive the information from a peer.

### **Implementing activities**

- Make sure that the first student to do an assignment does it correctly in order to set the standard for the rest of the class.

### **Problem solving**

- Input all information as quickly as possible.
- Let the new data percolate in the mind and quite often creative ideas will spontaneously appear.

### **Knowledge retention**

- The greatest threat to understanding is information overload. When you try to cover too much, understanding diminishes.

### **Tests**

- If students want to challenge test questions or answers, encourage them. Request that they submit their cases in writing with appropriate text citations.

### **Discipline**

- Try to anticipate classroom events in advance and decide how you will deal with them before they happen.

At the end of the term, collect the extra credit “tip” papers. You may find, as I do, that it is enlightening to find out how well students can listen when they are motivated. One student recorded over 80 legitimate tips like those listed above during this past semester.