

Engaging the Learner in the Catholic School ^{e2}



Steve Johnson
Markkula Center for Applied Ethics
Santa Clara University

sjohnson@scu.edu
www.scu.edu/character



1

What outcomes do we hope to achieve?



Knowledge:

increase what students know
[consider factual].



Skill:

increase what students are able to do.



Attitude:

Move the dispositions or habits of mind of the student.



Belief:

stimulate the reflection and expression of convictions.



Character:

good habits and bad habits,
becoming and overcoming,



a confluence of values, thought processes and the skills of coping and cooperation.



2

What does a lesson depend on to reach these outcomes?



Support from routine-
to give students a sense of safety
and security, and respect time.



Novelty-

to keep things interesting,
and to bring content to life.



- too much routine is boring, too little is threatening to kids
- routine is for **transitions**: move, change, start, stop, get or return materials
- large to small group transition: kids need something to **continue, get or find**
- too much novelty scares, too little loses kids
- novelty is for the activities, enlivens content



3

How can we engage kids in lessons we teach?



Interest

in a lesson can be boosted through



content,
tasks, or
reinforcers



4

Relevance

of a lesson can be increased by



a problem to solve, an issue to decide, an operation to perform, or a mystery to resolve.



interest and relevance start
where the kids are



- boost interest by adapting the
 - **content, tasks or reinforcers**
- boost relevance by providing a
 - **problem to solve, an**
 - **issue to decide ,**
 - **operation to perform, or a**
 - **mystery to resolve**