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## Top Qualities of an Excellent Instructor/Facilitator

From the JIBC Library

### **ENGAGING**

*Good teachers are engaging.*

Being able to engage students with creative lessons and a strong classroom presence is important. Here are a few books at the JIBC Library on best practices in engaging learners:

- [Engaged teaching: a handbook for college faculty / Elizabeth F. Barkley, Claire Howell Major.](#)
- [Engaging ideas: the professor's guide to integrating writing, critical thinking, and active learning in the classroom / John C. Bean, Daniel Melzer.](#)
- [Motivational immediacy: fostering engagement in adult learners / Jonathan E. Taylor; foreword by Ralph G. Brockett.](#)
- [Student engagement techniques: a handbook for college faculty / Elizabeth F. Barkley, Claire Howell Major.](#)
- [Wake 'em up! : super-charge your student engagement / Julie Smith.](#)

### **ACTIVE LEARNER**

*Good Teachers are Lifelong Learners.*

Incorporating active learning strategies into your classroom gives you the ability to watch how your students think and learn. Good teachers show students that they are committed to learning best practices, that they're willing to experiment with different teaching techniques, that they aren't afraid of tackling technology, that they and their colleagues share ideas, that they're adaptable to changing educational requirements, and needs. Here is a book at the JIBC Library on active learning:

- [Active learning online: five principles that make online courses come alive / Stephen M. Kosslyn](#)

## **EFFECTIVE FEEDBACK**

*Assessment is one of the most powerful tools in teaching.*

Students need help in assessing existing knowledge and competence. In classes, students need frequent opportunities to perform and receive suggestions for improvement. That's why feedback on performance is one of important part of effective assessment. Here is a book at the JIBC Library on assessing students:

- [Assessing students' written work: marking essays and reports / Catherine Haines.](#)

## **INCLUSIVE**

*Respect diverse talents and ways of learning.*

Different students bring different talents and styles to class. Students need opportunities to show their talents and learn in ways that work for them. Then they can be pushed to learn in new ways that do not come so easily. Here are a few books at the JIBC Library on inclusive teaching:

- [Bias-aware teaching, learning and assessment / Donna Hurford and Andrew Read.](#)
- [Creating inclusive online communities: practices that support and engage diverse students / Sharla E. Berry; foreword by Kathryn E. Linder.](#)

## **CRITICAL THINKER**

*Critical thinking equips students with essential skills for lifelong learning and problem-solving.*

A good teacher encourages curiosity and challenges students to question, analyze, and synthesize information, fostering a classroom environment. By incorporating activities that

require thoughtful reasoning and open-ended discussions, educators not only deepen students' understanding of the subject matter but also nurture their ability to think critically. Here is a book at the JIBC Library on critical thinking:

- [Infusing critical thinking into your course: a concrete, practical approach / Linda B. Nilson.](#)

## **EMPATHETIC**

*Empathy lays the foundation for a supportive and inclusive learning environment.*

An empathetic teacher understands the diverse needs, backgrounds, and emotions of their students, creating a safe space for open communication and mutual respect. Here are a few books at the JIBC Library related to this topic:

- [Designing accessible learning content: a practical guide to applying best-practice accessibility standards to L&D resources / Susi Miller.](#)
- [Designing intersectional online education: critical teaching and learning practices / edited by Xeturah M. Woodley and Mary F. Rice.](#)
- [Seven steps to college success: a pathway for students with disabilities / Elizabeth C. Hamblet.](#)

## **STRONG COMMUNICATOR**

*Being a strong communicator is a paramount quality of a good teacher.*

Effective communication is the bedrock of successful teaching, encompassing not only the transmission of knowledge but also the establishment of meaningful connections with students. A skilled teacher can convey complex concepts in a clear and accessible manner, adapting their communication style to suit the diverse learning needs of their students. Here is a book at the JIBC Library on facilitation skills:

- [Facilitation in action: finding your authentic training style / ATD's Facilitator Team: Carrie Addington, Jared Douglas, Nikki O'Keeffe, and Darryl Wyles.](#)

## Good Collaborators

*A great teacher creates a sense of community and belonging in the classroom.*

Through collaborative activities, open dialogue, and a genuine interest in each student's journey, a great teacher instills a sense of camaraderie, making the classroom a place of instruction and a community of shared growth. Some resources from the JIBC Library:

- [Student engagement techniques: a handbook for college faculty / Elizabeth F. Barkley, Claire Howell Major.](#)
- [Collaborative learning techniques: a handbook for college faculty / Elizabeth F. Barkley, Claire Howell Major, K. Patricia Cross.](#)
- Collaboration also involves working with colleagues and fellow instructors. [Faculty Focus](#) has a series of articles on team teaching.

## Creative

*A teacher's ability to infuse creativity into lessons keep students engaged.*

If you display a passion for students' learning by developing creative ways to teach, they will engage with the curriculum and get the most out of it. Here is a book at the JIBC Library on creative ideas to promote student interaction:

- [Engaging virtual environments: creative ideas and online tools to promote student interaction, participation, and active learning / Joanne Ricevuto and Laura McLaughlin; foreword by Lillian Nave.](#)

## First Peoples Principles of Learning

These principles represent an attempt to identify common elements in the varied teaching and learning approaches that prevail within particular First Nations societies. You can read the principles here:

- [First Peoples Principles of Learning](#)

Here are a few books at the JIBC Library that you could refer to:

- [Braided learning: illuminating indigenous presence through art and story / Susan D. Dion.](#)
- [Decolonizing and Indigenizing Education in Canada / edited by Sheila Cote-Meek and Taima Moeke-Pickering.](#)

### **More Resources from JIBC's Library:**

[An evidence-based guide to college and university teaching: developing the model teacher / Aaron S. Richmond, Guy A. Boysen and Regan A. R. Gurung.](#)

[Best practices in engaging online learners through active and experiential learning strategies / Stephanie Smith Budhai and Ke'Anna Brown Skipwith.](#)

[Facilitating experiential learning in higher education: teaching and supervising in labs, fieldwork, studios and projects / Roland Tormey and Siara Isaac; with Cécile Hardebolle and Ingrid Le Duc.](#)

[How learning works: 8 research-based principles for smart teaching / Marsha C. Lovett, Michael W. Bridges, Michele DiPietro, Susan A. Ambrose, Marie K. Norman.](#)

[Learning technologies and user interaction: diversifying implementation in curriculum, instruction, and professional development / edited by Kay K. Seo, Scott Gibbons.](#)

[McKeachie's teaching tips: strategies, research, and theory for college and university teachers / Marilla D. Svinicki and Wilbert J. McKeachie; with chapters by David Nicol ... \[et al.\].](#)

[Next level virtual training: advance your facilitation / Diana L. Howles.](#)

[Staying online: how to navigate digital higher education / Robert Ubell.](#)

[Teaching in a digital age: guidelines for designing and learning / A. W. \(Tony\) Bates.](#)

[The art and science of training / Elaine Biech.](#)

[Workgroups eAssessment: planning, implementing and analysing frameworks / Rosalina Babo, Nilanjan Dey, Amira S. Ashour, editors.](#)

[Seven steps to college success: a pathway for students with disabilities / Elizabeth C. Hamblet.](#)

[Universities on fire: higher education in the climate crisis / Bryan Alexander.](#)

[Facilitation in action: finding your authentic training style / ATD's Facilitator Team: Carrie Addington, Jared Douglas, Nikki O'Keeffe, and Darryl Wyles.](#)

[Don't make me think, revisited: a common sense approach to Web usability / Steve Krug.](#)

[Academic well-being of racialized students / edited by Benita Bunjun.](#)

[Culturally inclusive instructional design: a framework and guide for building online wisdom communities / Charlotte Nirmalani Gunawardena, Casey Frechette, and Ludmila Layne.](#)

[Teaching and learning for social justice and equity in higher education: foundations / Laura Parson, C. Casey Ozaki, editors.](#)