

# 5 Easy Pieces for Student Engagement



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## SUMMARY

As a long-time teacher, I picked up the book *Inclusive Teaching: Strategies for Promoting Equity in the College Classroom*, by Hogan and Sathy, with a skeptic's scowl. Soon I was fully converted and hadn't finished the first chapter before I was applying their tips.

I promise you that any of these five easy pieces will generate some sort of ripple in classroom engagement, and that all of them working together will fundamentally improve discussions. To be most effective, the pieces **must be applied consistently over time; every class**, if possible.

## 3. TODAY'S OBJECTIVES

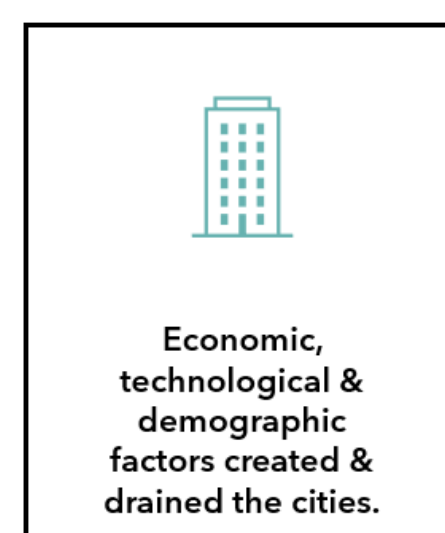
As they sound, a slide presented early in class and crafted to **sound reasonably interesting. 1 minute.**

### Today's Objectives

By the end of today, you will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the differences between economic and community development.
- ✓ Know how a community builds social capacity.
- ✓ Describe the steps needed to "move up a grade" in your professional life.

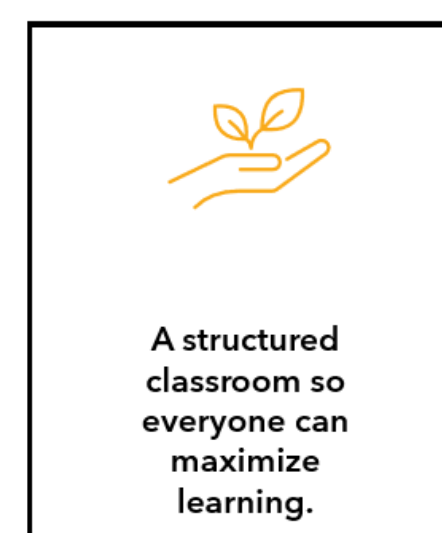
### TODAY'S OBJECTIVES



Economic, technological & demographic factors created & drained the cities.



Practice looking at inventions and trends through a longer lens.



A structured classroom so everyone can maximize learning.

## 1. WARM UP

At the start of every class – first thing and without fail so they can count on it – I'll pose a slide with a 'fun' set of question **unrelated to class topics.**

Frankly, some of them bomb; no one feels like answering.

Undeterred, I'll revise or toss out that set and try something else next time. **2-3 minutes.**

### WARM-UP

- a) I slept great last night, I think it's because ...
- b) This may be obvious to everyone else, but I have a question about ...

### WARM-UP

- a) What is your oldest or most cherished grudge?
- b) It seems to me, the toughest part of this class will be ...

## 4. THINK • PAIR • SHARE

Think-pair-share is a simple technique that keeps your most outspoken students from taking over the conversations and **guarantees some level of participation from every person.**

Students first answer a prompt on their own by **writing down their answers**, then come together in pairs or small groups. Then they share their conclusions with the class. **Give them 2-3 minutes.**

Discussing an answer first with a partner before sharing maximizes participation and helps to focus attention on the prompts.

1:49



What are the possible costs of using a consultant vs. in-house resources?

How, exactly, would you determine them?

1:54



Confer with your team.

## 2. RECAP LAST CLASS

Pose for discussion a slide with 3 questions recapping the last class. **Don't get clever - give them an easy one they'll be confident in answering. 2-3 minutes.**

### Class 6: Theories & Players



- What role does the federal government play in community development spending? Is it direct?
- How does fed money flow down to the state? Who's a big CD player in Indiana?
- Name a difference between these theories: technical Assistance, ABCD and social fields.

## 5. BIG TAKEAWAYS

These are grand, sweeping statements about the subject matter that **capture the tone and context** for the day's discussion. Keep them simple – and catchy.

### Today's Takeaways

KEY POINTS

From the beginning, Americans have struggled with the most effective ways to help our poorest and most disadvantaged citizens.

KEY POINTS

Both Republican and Democratic presidents have launched huge national programs to make the U.S. a more equitable and balanced country.

KEY POINTS

While no one method has proved most effective, almost all community development now centers around involving members of the community itself.

### Today's Takeaways

KEY POINTS

"People who are divided are easier to control."

There are groups from all political sides – and from other countries – who are, with evil intent, spreading **disinformation** with the goal of dividing the country.

KEY POINTS

Understanding your own political typology - where it came from, how strongly you feel it – is the first place to in understanding **others.**

KEY POINTS

Fight for the county by becoming intellectually involved & emotionally connected to your community, and to all of the Many Americas.