TEACHING ASSISTANT’S Guide to How to Encourage Learning in the Classroom

The list represents what a group of experienced TAs at UVic have identified as important aspects of how TAs’ can encourage learning in the classroom. Not all suggestions below may be applicable in all departments on campus. Please use the list as a guide only.

As a TA, try to do the following:

- Show enthusiasm for the subject
- Have tricks and ideas
- Know who the students are
- Know what kind of learners the students are
- Broadcast to the spectrum of learners
- Plan your lesson and present your plan on the board
- Participatory activities – mix it up
- Give assignments
- Do not insult students, show them respect
- Acknowledge the diversity of students
- Acknowledge and accommodate different learning styles
- Be a role model
- Wait for a response when asking questions, give students time to think about their answer
- Repeat and summarize questions
- Create room for doers and thinkers
- Have discussion groups
- Use visuals with maps and tangible props
- Have students talk about pictures
- Small group activities
- Videos
- Play

The following list was developed during the Teaching Assistant Consultants’ (TACs) seminars for the academic year, 2009-2010.