

From Passive to Present

Practical Engagement Strategies for
Healthcare Students:
Inside & Outside of the Classroom

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Objectives

Identify

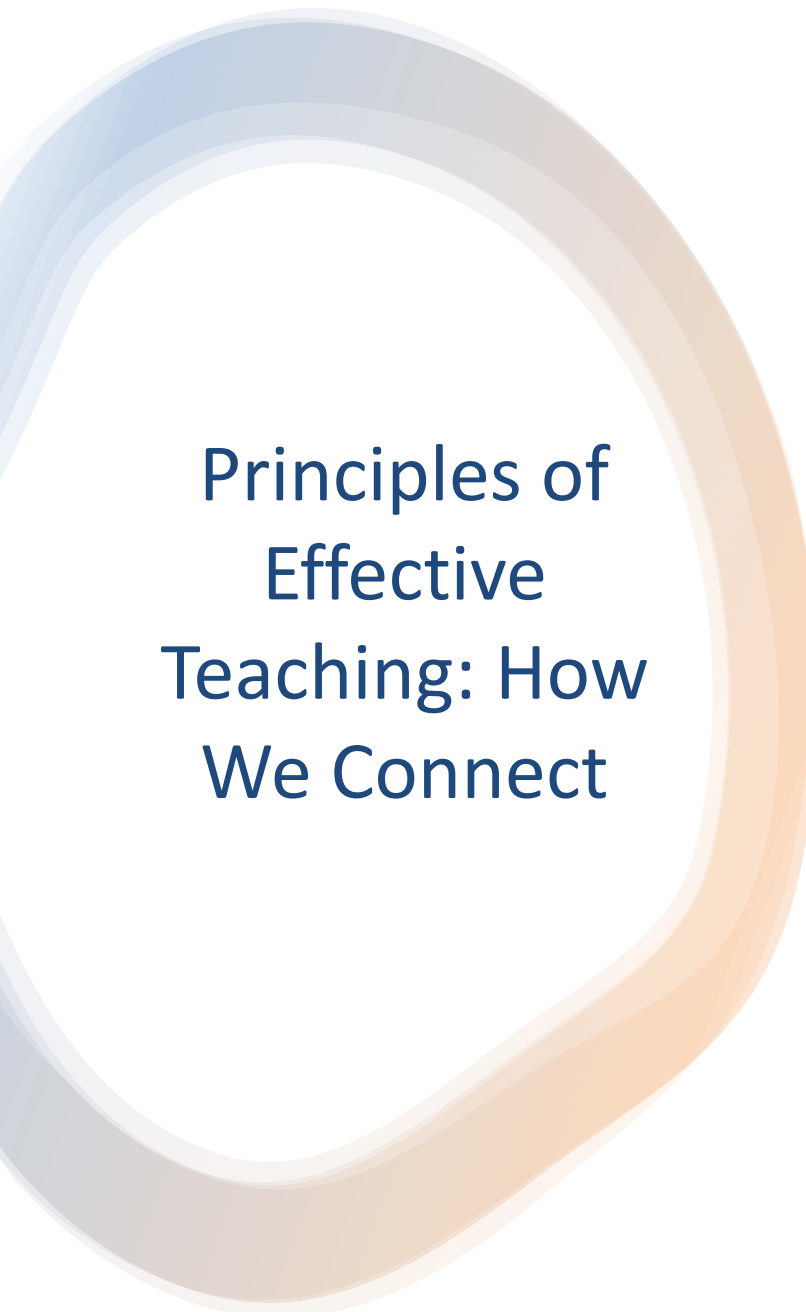
Identify ways to increase engagement

Explore

Explore practical strategies (inside & outside class)

Apply

Apply one strategy immediately



Principles of Effective Teaching: How We Connect

- **Engagement Focus**
 - Respond to signs of disengagement
 - Assist students who need remediation
 - Support at-risk students
 - Maximize student participation
 - Pace teaching to support retention
 - Demonstrate passion and enthusiasm
 - Motivate and inspire students
 - Facilitate regular substantive interaction

Why Engagement Matters

- Student engagement is one of the strongest predictors of academic achievement, retention and graduation in higher education
- Disengagement → risk in clinical performance
- Engagement builds clinical reasoning
- Active learning improves retention

(Ashwin & McVitty, 2022; Myers, 2025)



Engagement = Thinking

- Faculty-student connection is a critical driver
- Ask for thinking, not just answers
- Create a comfortable learning environment
- Set standards early



Student Engagement
Scenario #1:

Inside the Classroom

Learning Happens in the Struggle

- **Normalize mistakes**
Create safety to think out loud
- **Don't rescue too quickly**
Let students work through uncertainty
- **Focus on thinking, not answers**
“How are you approaching this?”

(Edmondson & Lei, 2021; Yan et al., 2021)



Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Over
Lecturing

Text-heavy
slides

Recall-only
questions

Fear-based
participation

Responding to Disengagement



Use supportive language




Check in early



Focus on understanding



Use practical scripts



Inside-the- Class Engagement Strategies

- Think-Pair-Share
- 5-minute Case Study
- Mini Simulation/Case or “Predict the Outcome”
- One-Minute Paper or One-Minute Clinical Write / Muddiest Point
- Quick Polls
- Teach-Back
- Learn from Mistakes
- Ask for reasoning
- PowerPoint Engagement

(Stains et al., 2021; Flip, 2023)



Outside-Class Engagement

Why?

- Reinforces application
- Builds confidence
- Encourages reflection

How?

- Build connection without burnout
- Encourage peer learning
- Use short discussion prompts

(Bowden et al., 2021)



Student Engagement Scenario #2:

Outside the
Classroom

Boundaries Matter



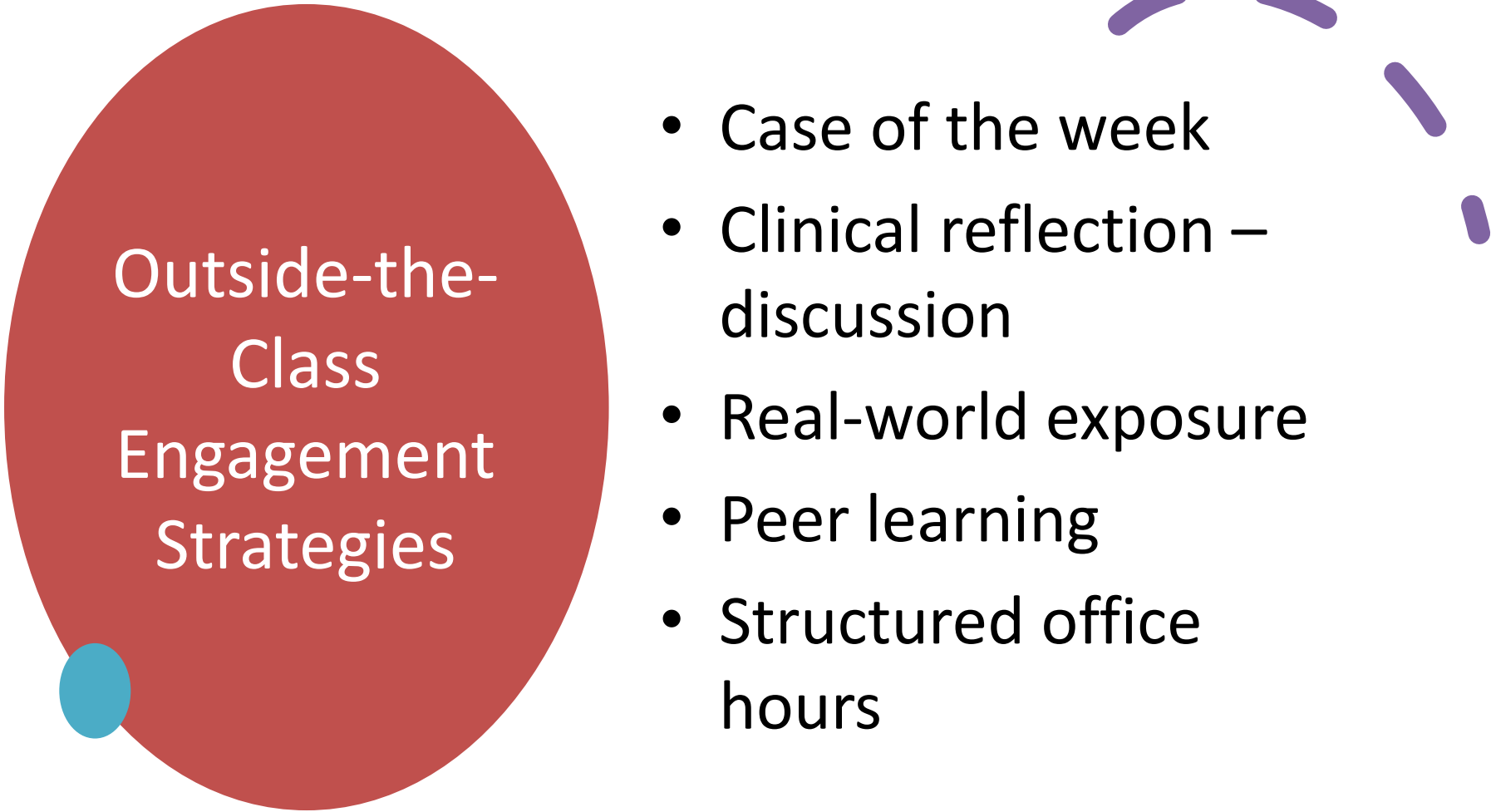
SET EXPECTATIONS



USE STRUCTURED
SUPPORT



CLEAR
COMMUNICATION



Outside-the- Class Engagement Strategies

- Case of the week
- Clinical reflection – discussion
- Real-world exposure
- Peer learning
- Structured office hours

Activity: One Change Plan

What is your priority engagement intervention and why?

Pick one engagement strategy to try next week (inside or outside of class) and devise a plan to implement the strategy.

Discuss your plan with your neighbor. How could you measure the impact?

Key Takeaway

- Engagement = Clinical readiness
- Active learning improves outcomes
- Small changes = BIG impact

“Student engagement is not just correlated with learning — it is the mechanism through which learning happens.”

(Khalil & Ebner, 2021)



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