

INSTRUCTOR-RELATED FACTORS & STUDENT MOTIVATION

UNIT 3 STUDY GUIDE

As you complete this module, take notes on the questions in each section. Be prepared to use your responses during small group and large group discussions.

PART 1: THINK ABOUT YOUR CURRENT PRACTICE

Before starting the lesson, reflect on your own classroom:

Questions:

1. What typically drives your instruction more: **program requirements** or **student goals**? Why?
 2. How do you currently measure student success (tests, skill mastery, participation, etc.)?
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PART 2: PRACTICES THAT CAN LOWER MOTIVATION

The lesson identifies common instructor practices that can negatively impact motivation:

- Focusing on program goals over student goals
- Not connecting learning to real-life applications
- Overemphasizing testing and grading
- Limiting student autonomy
- Using only one method of instruction

Questions:

1. Which of these practices do you see most often in your program or classroom?
 2. How might this practice affect a student's motivation or confidence?
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PART 3: STRATEGIES TO INCREASE MOTIVATION

1. Create a Student-Centered Classroom

- Shift from delivering content → facilitating learning
- Engage students actively
- Focus on mastery over test scores

Questions:

1. What is one way you could make your classroom more student-centered?
 2. What challenges might you face in making this shift?
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2. Help Students Set Realistic, Personal Goals

- Identify what matters to students
- Connect lessons to real-life goals
- Use goals as a framework for instruction

Questions:

1. How do you currently learn about your students' goals?
 2. What is one way you could better connect instruction to those goals?
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3. Build Positive Self-Concepts

- Focus on effort, time, and strategies (inputs students control)
- Move away from focusing only on outcomes

Questions:

1. How do you currently give feedback to students?
 2. How could you shift your feedback to focus more on effort and strategy?
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4. Promote Student Autonomy

- Offer choices in topics, projects, and assessments
- Involve students in decisions

Questions:

1. Where do students currently have choice in your classroom?
 2. What is one additional choice you could offer?
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5. Use Multi-Sensory Instruction

- Incorporate visual, auditory, and hands-on learning
- Teach to multiple learning styles

Questions:

1. Which instructional methods do you use most often?
 2. What is one new strategy you could try to reach a different learning style?
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PART 4: APPLICATION & PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION

Bring your ideas together:

Questions:

1. Which strategy from this lesson do you think would have the **greatest impact** on your students? Why?
 2. What is one **specific change** you are willing to try in your classroom in the next month?
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SUMMARY

Instructor choices directly impact student motivation. Small shifts—like increasing student voice, connecting to real-life goals, and focusing on mastery—can lead to meaningful improvements in engagement and success.
