

**Faculty Matter Teaching Tip #24 (update of Tip #12):  
Before you wrap up for the semester, leave a trail of breadcrumbs  
to help you reconstruct how you'd like to modify your courses  
before you teach them next.**

With exams nearly done and summer beckoning, this is a time when faculty can feel particularly pressed for time and ready to move on from the tasks of the academic year. In the spirit of the "A stitch in time saves nine" adage, we offer this last Faculty Matter Teaching Tip for the semester.

Many of us tend to shove all of our teaching materials aside as soon as we are done submitting students' grades. ***The essence of this final Faculty Matter Tip for the semester is that it might be productive to take some time to review the courses we have just wrapped up, and make some notes before moving on to other commitments and activities.*** Next time you teach the class, what might you want to ***add***, what might you want to ***delete***, what might you want to ***tweak a little bit***, what might you want to ***change significantly***, and what might you want to ***leave exactly as is*** because it went really, really well?

As you review your course materials, *consider the following:*

- Were there topics that didn't grab students' attention as much as you had hoped or expected?
- Were there concepts that students struggled with more than you had envisioned they might?
- Were there activities or techniques that required more of your time than warranted, given the student gains you can attribute to them?
- Did you come across resources that you didn't have time to draw upon this semester?
- Have you gotten ideas about things to try next time you teach the class?
- Were there topics or activities or teaching techniques that really engaged your students or helped them master the material?

We encourage you to ***make some notes while these observations are still fresh in your mind.*** Without this "trail of breadcrumbs" to jog your memory, as you sit down weeks or months from now to "refresh" the course, you may find it frustrating to try to reconstruct what changes you had thought might be fruitful. We also invite you to participate in any of the up-coming CFD or eCampus sessions or workshops, or to sit down one-on-one with CFD or eCampus staff, to flesh out your ideas about the changes you would like to make to your courses.

Please ***add your own strategies using the comment link*** on the [Provost's Academic Spotlight blog under the category "Faculty Matter"](#).