

## Faculty Matter Teaching Tip #32: Making the best use of the LAST day of class.

Earlier Faculty Matter Teaching Tips have focused on the FIRST day of class, and how faculty can engage students effectively as they *launch* the semester. The focus of this Tip is how to **END strong**. Several of the ideas below are inspired by Dr. Barbara Gross Davis, and the content of her wonderful tome entitled *Tools for Teaching*.

If you plan to spend at least part of the day **covering new material**...

- Consider reserving a few minutes for students to think about how this material relates to the major themes running through the course, to courses they are likely to take in future semesters, to issues they may address in their current or future professional endeavors.

If you plan to spend at least part of the day on **student presentations**...

- Consider having student presenters and/or the rest of the class speak briefly to how the material being presented relates to the major themes running through the course, to courses they are likely to take in future semesters, to issues they may address in their current or future professional endeavors.

If you plan to spend at least part of the day **reviewing for the final**...

- Consider giving students an active role in answering questions that come up – in framing approaches to questions, in explaining concepts, in clarifying terms or ideas, etc... And to the degree that makes sense, be explicit about what YOU hope students take away from the course, and from their preparation for the final.

If you plan to spend at least part of the day **reflecting over the semester**...

- Consider the following:
  - a. if you opened the course with guiding questions, revisit them;
  - b. reserving a few minutes for a think-pair-share about the most important insight, something of value students will take forward into future classes or into their personal or professional life etc.;
  - c. encourage students to identify a strength they discovered about/nurtured in themselves.

In any event, if you feel so inclined, consider taking a moment to **thank your students** for something you have learned from them, or from teaching them this semester.

You can read all previous tips on the [Faculty Matter Tips](#) page of the CFD website, and share your own thoughts and ideas on the [Provost's Academic Spotlight blog under the category "Faculty Matter"](#).. **Please add your own strategies using the comment link** on the [Provost's Academic Spotlight blog under the category "Faculty Matter"](#).