

The Teaching Trick – how to improve student learning without spending more time teaching

When improvement of student learning is discussed, it is commonly assumed that any new teaching methods will require a higher teaching effort. While anyone can perhaps improve a course by spending 100 hours more teaching it, this is for apparent reasons no sustainable strategy. So how can we simultaneously improve student learning and cost-effectiveness of teaching? The key principle is that teachers should spend more of their time doing things that lead to high quality learning, and less time on such things that do not lead to learning. Concrete examples will be used to challenge old ways of thinking and question some taken-for-granted practices in education. When the dust has settled we have tried a new way of seeing teaching – from a learning perspective. Finally we ask the tough question: what makes us keep doing things that do not contribute much to learning?



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