

Empowerments for Student Learning

Exclusively for Adjuncts

**Honoring learner-centered teaching activities and supportive teaching environments
in a changing paradigm of higher education**

Expand your knowledge. Broaden your resources. Spark students' inspiration.



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Gifts

"Gifts" is both an attitude and engagement strategy. Dr. Sara Lightfoot, Harvard School of Education, notes that classrooms should be environments where students are rewarded for their talents and *Gifts*.

Initiate this teaching and learning strategy by asking students' to reflect on the *Gifts* they bring to the classroom. Ask students to write down their *Gifts* and share them with a partner. Be prepared.

Students have been enculturated to believe that telling about their talents is "bragging." We know, of course, that the ability to identify one's strengths will be a critical asset as students move from the academic culture to the workplace. Importantly, students will also reap self-esteem benefits from thinking about and sharing their *Gifts*.



Encourage self-esteem and teambuilding by providing opportunities throughout the term for students to recognize their *Gifts* and the *Gifts* of others. Provide informal and structured opportunities for classmates and teammates to communicate *Gifts*.

Karre, Idahlynn. *Busy, Noisy, and Powerfully Effective Cooperative Learning in the College Classroom*. 2008. 4. Web.

With Best Regards,

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