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BEST PRACTICES FROM FACULTY

To Incorporate your SI Leader in the Classroom and Get Your Students to Utilize the SI Leader



#1



Practice problems in class

Once the class period's course material was presented and the examples demonstrated, the students were directed to practice problems in class during which I and the SI leader monitored progress and assisted as appropriate. During this activity the students were organized to work in pairs.

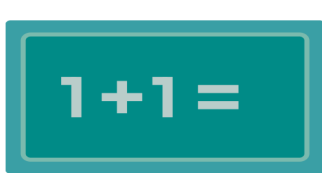
#2



The numbers don't lie

I have found that my students who take advantage of the help available to them by the SI leader generally earn a letter grade higher than those who don't, and I pass this information on to my students.

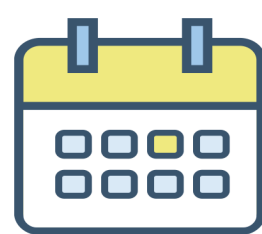
#3



Advanced preparation

In advance of class, my SI Leader would select HW problems to write on the board for students to get extra practice and review. To help students see the SI Leader as a knowledgeable and helpful person, I would have her choose board problems and roam in class during problem solving sessions.

#4



Plan ahead

If you give a daily or weekly calendar for the semester for your class, include the SI session times in the calendar, to reinforce the impression that SI is an integral part of the course.

#5



Use them as a model student

My SI Leader willingly participated in classroom discussions regarding assigned readings and exercises and provided some insight into many university/departmental procedures that could impact the students in the course.

#6



Create a culture of support

I would include the SI Leader in most classroom activities and procedures so that students would immediately identify her as an instructional leader and resource.

#7



Peer pressure is a good thing

We encouraged all students to help the other students in class. The SI leader was very instrumental in getting all students to collaborate in class.

#8



The first exam is the worst

I had some students that attended an SI session to discuss the results after the 1st test! This was helpful in getting the students to evaluate their study habits and get advice from the SI on how to improve.

#9



Go beyond the academics

My SI Leader assisted in recording attendance, distributing learning materials, and collecting assignments throughout the semester. (This allows the SI Leader a little time and opportunity to greet and encourage the students!)

#10



Your voice goes a long way

I periodically reminded the students of the SI's hours and once the SI participated in class (helping students), the students seemed to seek him out a bit more.

Conclusion

We have seen the best attendance to SI sessions and the best improvement in overall course grades in sections that allow the SI leader to interact with the students in class. This helps the SI leader build rapport and familiarity with the students. If you are looking for other ideas to incorporate your SI Leader in the classroom or to boost student participation in SI sessions, feel free to contact us!