

April 2016 Teaching Tip



**Green Light
Education**
A new perspective

**THOSE WHO DO...
DO THE LEARNING**



“Writing What’s Right”

Follow Dr. Rich Allen on Twitter: @drrichallen.com

During a lecture or discussion, make sure students know exactly what they need to write down. Unless a teacher is extremely clear what specific facts are important to record, good students will try to write down everything, while poor students will soon give up and write down nothing. To help students create useful revision notes, use this 3-step strategy:

1. Isolate – Before the lesson clarify the critical facts you want students to record
2. Highlight – During the lesson, draw students’ attention to what needs to be noted
 - Be blunt. Occasionally simply say, “Write this down!”
 - If many details within a concept are important, give students notes in advance.
 - Only put on a power point slide the key facts they need to write – not as whole sentences, most times a phrase or word will be enough.
 - If a slide has a great deal of content, make the things they need to write down a different color, font, or size.
3. Write – Make certain everyone has seized the moment, and jotted down the facts
 - Pause occasionally throughout a class and say, “Look at your notes. Are they clear enough for you to understand? Right now, add any points of clarity, or ask questions.”

This way, your students will create the specific, useful, focused notes they need to succeed in the test.

This month’s book:

Whole Brain Teaching for Challenging Kids: (and the rest of your class, too!) Chris Biffle, (2013). Full of useful ideas and creative for keeping everyone engaged in learning – especially those typically boisterous and active ones.



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