

**Tips for Ensuring Interactivity in Your Session**

There are many ways to design sessions that will generate meaningful collaboration, foster engagement, and share knowledge. **Be sure to include how you plan to incorporate interactivity with, and among, attendees in your RFP submission**. Here are a few ideas for you to consider:

# Do More Than Lecture

Shorten the presentation segment of your session to the minimum amount of time to convey all of your ideas. When possible, step away from the podium and move about the room.

Feedback from past Symposium attendees includes:

* + *“Encourage presenters to incorporate the innovative new learning models we want for students in their delivery techniques."*
	+ *“Engage in conversations to share knowledge, lessons learned and best practices; and/or model competency-based, blended, or online approaches (i.e., no “front of the classroom”). Avoid a “stand-and-deliver” session model.”*

# Engage Your Audience

From the outset, and throughout your session, ensure that you are interacting with your attendees and building in opportunities for attendees to share and interact with each other.

* + What’s your hook? Consider starting the session with a short ice-breaker. Capture what attendees hope to learn from your session.
	+ Gauge audience interest and level of understanding on your topic at the beginning of your session and tailor your session accordingly. Intermittently ask for feedback during the session and ensure everyone is following along.
	+ Incorporate Q&A throughout your session, not just at the end. Quick gut checks, quizzes, and polls are also helpful tools.
	+ Group and re-group attendees around key issues, problems of practice, and ask the groups to share out. This promotes networking and knowledge-sharing among attendees.
	+ Give attendees time to share their thoughts and experiences on your topic. Ensure space and attention for quieter attendees; call on them as ask for their input. Model empathy and acknowledge vulnerability.
	+ Use real, relative examples as part of your session's narrative.
	+ Engage attendees in a conversation, not merely speaking at them.
	+ Incorporate technology to allow your attendees to respond and share.
	+ In workshops, encourage attendees to use break time strategically to network.
	+ Engage all the senses of your attendees and ensure your session covers a gamut of teaching and learning methods.
	+ Ask participants what they intend to do with the ideas shared in your session.

# Have Fun

* + Have participants move around, re-arrange things, and talk to each other.
	+ Play games and tell stories. Gamification and storytelling help illustrate session themes with an authentic personal experience.
	+ Assign roles during activities, such as timekeeper, note-taker, referee, etc.
	+ Encourage your attendees to share what they’re learning on social media.
	+ Take a group selfie at the end of the session and send it to all participants afterward.