

START YOUR YEAR OFF STRONG

If you're new to *Teach Like a Champion*, or trying to get back in the swing of the classroom after a summer off, we suggest starting with these techniques--but a reminder, there's no wrong place to start!

1 COLD CALL

We believe *Cold Call* is the most likely of all the techniques to shift the academic culture in your classroom the quickest. Start your year off by establishing that all students are expected to participate and bring their knowledge to the table, not just the ones who raise their hands.

2 STRONG START

Start your year off by establishing routines for students as soon as they enter the classroom. Setting expectations for students early in the year that learning begins as soon as they walk in the door to your classroom will maximize learning efficiency throughout the year.

3 ENGINEER EFFICIENCY

Another technique useful for maximizing in-class learning time is *Engineer Efficiency*. Teach, and then practice, the procedures for routine activities in your classroom. Make sure you practice these procedures with students early on in the year so they become automatic.

4 WHAT TO DO

Prevent off-task behavior in the classroom by clearly articulating concrete, specific, and observable directions to tell your students what to do, rather than what *not* to do. *What to Do* is a simple technique, but it's so important to clearly tell students what you expect, rather than giving vague rebukes--"Stop that," or "Don't do that."

5 PLAN FOR ERROR

Every lesson has the potential for mistakes alongside learning. But you can turn classroom mistakes into learning opportunities, particularly if you're prepared ahead of time for common mistakes your students might make. *Plan for Error* is a daily planning exercise where teachers anticipate common student errors, and plan responses for them.

6 DOUBLE PLAN

Double Plan your lessons by thinking through what your students will be doing in each part of your lesson plan. Seeing the lesson through your students' eyes, not only through a teacher's lens, will help make sure students have all the tools they need to succeed at their fingertips.

7 FRONT THE WRITING

Build critical thinking skills in your students by *Fronting the Writing*: making sure that writing comes early on in the lesson so students think rigorously before contributing to a classroom discussion. This will build writing skills as well as critical thinking.

8 CONTROL THE GAME

Every teacher teaches reading, no matter the grade or skill level. Building students who are passionate, positively engaged readers through *Control the Game* will see returns in almost every aspect of academics for the rest of your year.

