

Thank you so much for giving me feedback! I read every comment of yours and I've summarized them below.

A "+" sign means that a student says "this method is working for me. please continue!".

A "-" sign means that a student says "this method is not working for me. please stop!"

With a large class, it is impossible to choose a teaching method to make every student happy. Thus, I've identified trends in the feedback and will adjust my teaching accordingly.

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Post solutions on the webpage

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- * Thanks for posting the solutions on the webpage. It helped me a lot!
- * The resources and examples you keep on the CS245 webpage is extremely helpful.
- * It's a good way to check our solutions and be confident.

Clicker questions with discussion

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- * Clicker questions with discussion are helpful.
- * It's often the case that students actually discuss the question before choosing an answer. So please spend time discussing the question only if democracy is largely incorrect.

Writes solutions by hand on the doc camera

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Solve short problems on your own

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- * I like having clicker questions with discussion and time to try problems in class to reinforce what we learned.

Discussion questions in slides

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Solve longer problems in groups

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- * Not helpful. Not why I come to class.
- * Sometimes I feel that group work does not overall add to the class (of no fault of your own) because oftentimes I find others are not as willing to participate in active discussion which thereby makes me less eager as well. I understood that teamwork is an important skill however.
- * Solving long problems in group wastes a lot of time. Some group members know everything while others know nothing.
- * I want to have more time to work on problems by ourselves rather than in groups.
- * Chocolate prizes!

***Alice's response: Thank you for sharing your opinions. Group work is not a major component of this course. However, let me re-iterate the reason for structuring the natural deduction class as problem solving in small groups.

***First, I believe that the best way to learn to write a natural deduction proof and to learn problem solving in general is to work on problems. Also, you only realize the tricky parts of a problem by trying to solve it yourself. This is why I let you solve short and long problems during lecture time.

***Second, teamwork is an important skill. In years, you will realize that the only way to accomplish anything significant and substantial is to collaborate with many other people instead of working by yourself.

***Therefore, I structured the class as a group problem solving session. Of course, this is only one of many effective ways of structuring this class.

Clicker questions with no discussion

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Talk about applications of logic

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Play music

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- * Relaxing
- * Play more country!
- * The music you play is not my type.
- * Loud and unnecessary
- * I love the concept of music before class, but could we occasionally branch off from country-pop? Country's a fine genre, Merle Haggard & Johnny Cash are bae, or maybe some jazz? Anyways, still a great idea, thanks & keep it up!
- * For the music I might suggest staying away from country as it is generally less liked than other genres, but this is an incredibly minor and insignificant suggestion.

***Alice's response: Thank you for your suggestions about the music! Country happens to be my favorite genre of music and that's why you've been hearing it often. I am happy to take requests for music to play. However, please don't take offense if I don't end up playing the songs you suggested.

Use microphone

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- * Voice is clear.

Remember name

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- * It shows you care!
- * How did you know my name?

***Alice's response: Before the start of the term, I memorized every student's name based on the pictures through Learn. Then I discovered that most of you don't look like your pictures... :)

Show logic puzzles before class

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Pace:

- * Leave long slides up for longer (I don't use computer) so I can copy them.
- * I think it's a good idea to shorten discussion time for a bit, sometimes we have already finished discussion before the time to stop discussing.
- * Sometimes you explain stuff too quickly (e.g. natural deduction, had to review notes myself) please explain slower with simpler detail.
- * Using slides is not working for me because you go through them too fast.

***Alice's response: Thank you for your feedback! I realized that I went through some slides too fast. I will slow down when going through slides and give you sufficient time to take notes.

***One suggestion about note taking: I post everything I show in class (if I miss something, send me an email and ask for it). Knowing that, you can afford to be selective about what you write down. Instead, please spend more of the lecture time thinking about the concepts and problems and asking questions.

Examples:

- * More examples of similar questions that appear on assignments
- * Do more example problems.
- * More opportunities for us to practice short problems would be nice.

Slides:

- * Post slides ahead that we can proofread ahead before class
- * Could you post each slide only once because I have to download two different versions of slide for each class and it is a little inconvenient for me to take notes.

***Alice's response: I usually post the slides around 10pm the night before class. I keep trying to post the slides earlier, but it hasn't happened yet. I will make sure to post only one version of the slides.

Answers to clicker questions:

- * Add answers to clicker questions in the slides.
- * Include solutions in the slides may help the class go quicker and have time for answering questions. But can still go step by step on the doc camera.

***Alice's response: I prefer not to post the answers to clicker questions in the slides. I believe the process of solving the problem and the reasoning behind the problem is much more important than the solution itself. Thus, I want to encourage you to work through the problems yourself rather than reading the solution. You are always welcome to send me a quick email to check the answers for clicker questions with me.

In-class work:

- * Solve short problems on my own. I can do that on my own time but in-class I'd prefer you spend more time with explaining the concepts and doing more examples.
- * I would rather not have in-class work periods and just get the problems to work on at home.

***Alice's response: When I ask you to spend time in class to solve short problems, my goal is to force you to think about the problem and to realize why solving it is not trivial. This struggling process is necessary for you to grasp and to retain the knowledge and the problem-solving process. Without thinking about the problem

on your own, you may not appreciate the complexity of the problem and you may not know what to focus on when I go over the solution.

***Also, a solution presented by me often makes sense, but it doesn't mean that you can reproduce it. After thinking about the problem, yourself, you may come up with your own insight, which can help you understand and reproduce the solution.

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Nice comments:

- * Continue everything, stop nothing, never change, always be yourself! (seriously everything is great, don't have anything to suggest)
- * It's good don't change anything.
- * I enjoy this course a lot so far. :)
- * U r pretty cool just b urself :)
- * Everything you are doing is great!
- * All of the above is goooooood!
- * Otherwise, 10/10 keep up good work! =)
- * All of above should continue.
- * Good job professor. I gotta say you are one of the best profs in the CS department.
- * Alice is a really awesome professor and clearly puts in a lot of thought and energy into her class.

***Alice's response: Thank you so much for your encouragement! I will keep improving my teaching and do my best to help you get the best out of this course!