



Review and Summarize Key Points Throughout a Lecture

UDL CHECKPOINT 3.2: [Highlight patterns, critical features, big ideas, and relationships](#)

— Reminding learners of previous course information (lectures, key concepts, etc.) at the beginning of a class meeting, while also summarizing new concepts in a concise and direct manner, can help learners better understand specific material and allow them to succeed more completely in the course.

What is it?

Regardless of how often a course meets or how frequently information is conveyed to learners, it is important that instructors review previous course material and lecture points in order to remind learners of key concepts before beginning a new lecture. Additionally, it is important that instructors summarize key points throughout a lecture so that learners have a clear understanding of what information is essential to grasp.

Why do it?

Learners are often taking multiple different courses in a semester as well as dealing with their own personal and professional lives; because learners' minds are often pulled in many different directions throughout a day/week, it can be difficult for them to remember specific concepts from a previous week or lecture. By reviewing previous information and concepts briefly at the start of a new lecture, learners are reminded of necessary information, which is often built upon in future lectures. Also, during a lecture (especially a lecture on complex concepts), learners may feel overwhelmed by new information, causing them to not fully grasp the essentials. By pausing and summarizing these important points throughout a lecture, learners can better understand what to focus on, which can lead to a better performance in the course, as a whole.

How can I apply it?

Here are some ways that you can better learners' focus and understanding of course concepts with lectures.

- **Spend a few minutes reviewing previous course information.** At the beginning of any lecture or class meeting, take five minutes to highlight essential points already covered in previous class meetings.
- **Include check-ins during a lecture.** Pausing to ask learners if they have any questions or need clarification during a lecture can help learners better grasp concepts. Additionally, breaking complex concepts (and terminology) down by using easy-to-grasp wording can help learners more fully understand lecture points.

- **Include visuals in lectures.** Including visual elements and aids (photos, charts, graphs, etc.) within lecture notes helps reinforce concepts by presenting learners with the same material but in multiple formats.
- **Incorporate vignettes in lectures.** Offer personal connections and brief stories within a lecture to help learners understand how the course material can be applied to real-life situations and scenarios. This can help dissolve the wall many learners put up with certain subjects and break through the “How does this apply to my life?” mentality.

Summary

The classroom (on-ground or virtual) can be a daunting environment for learners, especially if they are struggling with fully grasping essential concepts. Before moving into new concepts with a lecture, it can be helpful to review previous key points of the course while also highlighting specific concepts and patterns during an actual lecture. Doing so can cause learners to become and remain more engaged with a course, which can lead to their overall success and satisfaction with the subject.