

iNACOL SYMPOSIUM | 2019

Shining a Light on the Future of Learning

OCTOBER 28-31, 2019 • PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

Tips for Improving 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 few ideas for you to consider:

1. Move Away from Lecture-Style Presentations

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.”*

2. 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.
- Storytelling and gamification offer a means to illustrate session themes with an authentic personal experience; consider using such techniques.

- Incorporate Q&A throughout your session, not just at the end. Quick gut checks 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.
- Consider using a Pecha Kucha or Lightning Talk format, which only allow 20 slides, and 20 seconds per slide, to present your topic. Use the remaining time for more interactive activities.
- Give attendees time to share their thoughts and experiences on your topic.
- 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.
- Encourage your attendees to share what they're learning on social media.
- In workshops, encourage attendees to use break time strategically to network.