

DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA

Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Student Engagement EDUO 9444 – One Graduate Level Credit

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Course Overview

The world of education has become extremely challenging over the past few years. From teacher shortages to the mental health crisis, both educators and students are struggling. The reform needed to fix such problems is often impractical and can take years! We do not have the time to wait. By implementing practical ideas and strategies incrementally, educators can continuously improve each issue and ultimately make a big shift. Educators will walk away from this course ready to tackle one of education's biggest challenges, Student Engagement.

Welcome to **EDUO 9444 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Student Engagement**. This course is part of a six-course series entitled **Fixing Education's Biggest Problems**. The other five courses in the series are:

- EDUO 9441 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Curriculum/Achievement
- EDUO 9442 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Student Behavior
- EDUO 9443 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Teacher Retention
- EDUO 9445 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Mental Health
- EDUO 9446 Fixing Education's Biggest Challenges: Equity

Please Note: No class is a prerequisite for another. They do not have to be taken sequentially, and you are not required to take all 6 courses. You are free to take as many or as few as you want.

Course Objectives

In this course, participants will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss and reflect on the biggest challenges facing education today.
- Learn practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of education's biggest challenges: Student Engagement.
- Participate in activities that demonstrate the ability to create curriculum and learning environments that improve student outcomes and supports student engagement, behavior, and social-emotional skills for all students.

Course Relation to CCS or other Professional Standards

This course aligns to the following professional teaching standards:

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ps/index.asp>

- Engaging and Supporting all Students in Learning
- Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning
- Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
- Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for all Students

How to Submit Coursework

You have nine months to Complete this course from the day that you registered. However, you are free to turn in all your work for a grade at any time along the way. Nonetheless, we are flexible. Please reach out to your instructor if you do not feel as though you can complete the class in time.

Place each assignment (1-8) in a separate word processing document with clear labels and submit it into the corresponding assignment's Dropbox. Be sure to e-mail your instructor after each submission. If your assignment is too large for the Dropbox or it is in a format that the Dropbox will not accept (i.e. Google docs), feel free to e-mail or share the document directly with your instructor at rpickett.dominicanaonline@gmail.com.

Course Assignments 1. Staying Positive

Objective: Discuss and reflect on the positive aspects of education and what keeps the participant active in their career.

- a. Read the article titled “*And Now for Some Good News.*” This article can be found in the online resources section of this course at: <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693> After reading the above article, discuss what surprised you the most and what made the most sense based on your experience in education.
- b. Write a paragraph or two discussing the most positive aspects of the past school year. While doing so, explain what motivates you to stay in education.

2. Educational Challenges

Objective: Discuss and reflect on the biggest challenges facing education today.

Watch the video called “*Teacher Shortages*”, which can be found in the online resources section of this course at: <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693>. After watching the video, rank the following 6 educational challenges in relation to the teacher shortage crisis and explain the choices that you made.

- Teacher Retention
- Student Behavior
- Mental Health
- Equity
- Student Engagement
- Curriculum/Achievement

3. Educational Challenges 2.0

Objective: Discuss and reflect on one of the biggest challenges facing education today, Student Engagement.

Without doing any research, write one paragraph on the educational challenge, Student Engagement, and why you believe this area is currently such a challenge throughout the nation.

4. Someday/Monday

Objective: Brainstorm practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of education's biggest challenges: Student Engagement.

Read the article, *"The Someday/Monday Dilemma"*. The article can be found in the online resources section of this course at: <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693> After reading the article, come up with one small "Someday / Monday" idea to test that may improve student engagement at your school/classroom/district. Essentially, you are to create a plan to start small and test your idea out. In your plan, describe your idea and why you choose it. There does not need to be a lot of details in your ideas, nor do you need to create any lesson plans. The basic idea is ok for this assignment.

5. Introduction to Student Engagement

Objective: Discuss and reflect on one of the biggest challenges facing education today, Student Engagement and its effects on teacher recruitment.

- a. Watch the video titled *"Schlechty's Levels of Engagement."* This video can be found in the online resources section of this class at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693>
- b. Discuss the video with an emphasis on the levels of engagement you typically see in your classroom, how it may or may not contribute to the teacher shortage, and what you currently do to improve engagement in your classroom.

6. Student Engagement

Objective: Learn practical ideas and strategies that will help address one of education's biggest challenges: Student Engagement.

- a. Read the following 8 articles. The articles can be found in the online resources section of this course at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693>
 - *"Four C's for Better Student Engagement"*
 - *"Five Ways to Inspire a Love for Learning in Students"*
 - *"You Don't Need to be a Hollywood Version of a Teacher"*
 - *"How to Start Strong"*
 - *"10 Powerful Ways to End Your Lessons"*
 - *"10 Awesome Tips..."*
 - *"Strengthen Student Focus in 3 Minutes a Day"*
 - *"What Makes a Teacher Memorable"*
- b. Write one paragraph for each of the 8 articles comparing it to the levels of engagement discussed in the video from assignment 5, *"Schlechty's Level of Engagement"*
- c. Write a script for a PTA meeting in which you present the fact that the school is going to make a conscious effort to truly engage all students in learning. The meeting can discuss this in general or pick a particular strategy that will be used. While creating your script, be sure to have roles for admin, teachers, and parents.

7. Teachers: The New Professional Athletes

Objective: Demonstrate gained knowledge on creating curriculum and learning environments that improve student outcomes and supports student engagement, behavior, and social-emotional skills for all students while improving the educational challenge of Student Engagement.

- a. Watch the Video, “*If We Treated Teachers Like Professional Athletes.*” This video can be found in the online resources section of this course at <https://dominicancaselfguided.com/course/view.php?id=693>
- b. Although the video about teachers being treated like professional athletes was a segment from a comedy skit, this should be the goal of education and how teachers should be treated. Given what you have learned in this course, explain what it will take to improve student engagement and how this could lead to the above video becoming a reality someday.

8. Fixing Student Engagement

Objective: Review the concepts of the course while communicating how the information can improve upon one of education’s biggest challenges, Student Engagement.

- a. Pretend that you just wrote and published a new book entitled, “Fixing Student Engagement.” Create the outer cover of the book. This includes the front and back of the cover. The goal of the book cover is to entice people to read the book, not for them to learn all the information presented in this course. We want this cover to look more like one that was created to make the book stand out in a bookstore.
- b. Pretend that you are attending your first book signing for the book above. This signing includes time to discuss the book with an audience that can ask questions. Write an opening statement for the crowd, as well as a script of some questions from the audience and your responses. Essentially, you are to review the concepts from this course

Course Assessment Rubric

Exemplary: A to A-	Acceptable: B+ to B-	Unacceptable Must be resubmitted
Reflective, thoughtful ideas relevant to the assignment are clearly stated	Presents some relevant ideas and connections to the assignment	Ideas are not clear or relevant
Very well organized	Generally well organized	Shows little or no organization
Responses relate numerous facts and specific details of the program materials	Some facts and specific details of the program materials are included	Few or no facts or specific details of the program materials are included
Free of spelling and/or grammatical errors	Writing contains a few spelling and/or grammatical errors	Numerous spelling and/or grammatical errors make the writing difficult to read

- You will need to complete the course within nine months of registering. If you need more time, be sure to contact your instructor prior to your due date.
- Course questions? Contact the developer by email. rpickett@dominicancaonline.com
- For questions involving your registration, please contact us at support@dominicanCAonline.com or call (800) 626-5080.
- To change your address, link to your Dominican account at https://www.dominicancaonlinestore.com/store/index.php?main_page=login

Resources/Bibliography

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Spencer, John, 2018, "The 5 levels of engagement by Schlechty: A simple Guide" YouTube, <https://youtu.be/256hluHbp2o?si=hv49euU5blhQOx2I>

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