

Question 4: How do you keep your students motivated and on task?

Allen Gancarz

DECA is the motivational tool. The competition, travel and opportunities are limitless. I always emphasize travel and back it up with video of former students participating at conferences. (I've been taking videos for years. I sent my first videos to National DECA, and the first video they sent to chapters around the country includes footage from my chapter.)

Mike Karpie

You have to work hard yourself. In the past four years, my high school has lost almost all of the veteran teachers. New teachers need to pick up the challenge. So keep communicating with your students and give of yourself.

Bill Lind

My style was to coax them, confront them, reward them, compliment them, walk around, talk, look, guide. If you sit down you lose. I like music in the classroom; I had it on a great deal, especially when they were working on practical exercises. They got a little tired of 60's music, but it was safer than the current fare.

Lucinda Mason

By keeping them actively engaged. However, they aren't always on task, and there are many days that they aren't motivated. I encourage them to stay busy. I reward them with "free" time most days after their work is done. If they are given three days to research a topic on the computer and write a business report on their findings, it must be turned in on time—no excuses regarding computers at home that didn't work, because they were given the time in class, and that is where the work was to be done.

Dennis Sweetapple

This is a very high profile problem in today's school world. I try to show my students all the benefits they will receive if they try hard and succeed in competition, community service, leadership roles and team participation.

Debbie Tixier

I use various teaching methods to introduce material. I try to use my own enthusiasm for the program to keep them motivated. Competition motivates my students, and DECA seems to sell itself once the students attend a conference or two. They get hooked!