

Teaching Improvement Packets

What are they?

A set of nine Teaching Improvement Packets (TIPs) have been designed to correspond to each of the nine core items of the UMass SRTI form. The core items of the SRTI form address elements of instruction that instructors are directly responsible for and can *improve* upon.

How do I obtain them?

Instructors who would like suggestions on how to respond to students' feedback in any of the nine areas can contact the Center for Teaching (CFT). The CFT has assembled informational packets which directly address each of the core items. Each packet is brief and provides instructors with concrete tips and practical advice on how to address specific teaching issues. A variety of suggestions are included so that instructors may adapt strategies that work with their own teaching styles.

Who can help me collect more feedback?

End-of-the-course evaluations like SRTI are the most widely used method for evaluating teaching. They often arrive too late, however, to benefit the teacher or the students in the course during that semester. Much more timely are feedback opportunities that take place *during* the semester. The CFT offers a range of activities that can help an instructor check on students' experiences as learners during the course. They include midterm assessments (interviews or questionnaires) by students, class visits, videotapings, or review of course materials. Faculty who use such techniques report learning more about ways to improve their course than they have discovered from end-of-term student ratings forms. Contact the CFT if you are interested in any of these feedback activities.

Available TIPs:

- 1. Being Well-Prepared for Class
- 2. Explaining Course Material Clearly
- 3. Clearing Up Points of Confusion
- 4a. Using Class Time Well (General Strategies and Lecturing)
- 4b. Using Class Time Well (Alternatives to Lecturing)
- 5. Inspiring Interest or Excitement in the Subject Matter
- 6a. Showing a Personal Interest in Helping Students Learn (Helping Students)
- 6b. Showing a Personal Interest in Helping Students Learn (Rapport)
- 7. Providing Useful Feedback on Student Performance
- 8. Evaluating Student Work Fairly
- 9. Stimulating Useful Class Participation