INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

SESSION SEVENTEEN

SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS SESSION:
If you worked hard all semester to establish a learning community, you will want to end with a meaningful event to make the last class about more than just submitting final papers:

- Invite a guest speaker to class to present about a topic related to the course.
- Have a celebratory potluck.
- Arrange for an instructor from the Science, Math, or Engineering department to do a fun, hands-on lab with your students.
- If your college has a planetarium, arrange for a special program with your students.
- Take a field trip to a local science center or botanical garden.
- Arrange for a tour of the campus Lab School or other model center, especially one with strong science and math programs.
- Think of other resources on campus and from the community that could be accessed to give students a special science or math experience for the final class session.

Try to leave students with a sense of accomplishment and enthusiasm for applying learning from the course into future experiences. Here are some ideas that create meaningful closure to the semester:

Ask students to reflect on their new knowledge
Tape sheets of easel paper around the room with questions for students to write their responses. It’s interesting to read their classmates’ diverse thought and perspectives. Examples of questions you could pose are:

- What are the most important insights you gained over the course of the semester?
- What are the most memorable things that happened in the course?
- What was your greatest success in the course?
- What would you tell future students about this course?

Share what you learned teaching this course
This is a powerful way to model that learning is a continuous process for instructors as well as students. You might highlight specific ways you plan to enrich the course based on what you have learned from your students. Sharing your own experiences and insights demonstrates how to be a reflective teacher.

Make their exit personal
Shaking each student’s hand on the way out recognizes the importance of saying goodbye and increases the connection between faculty and students. This is a personal touch that helps end the course on a high note.

“One thing I learned about myself from taking this class is that even though throughout school science and math were areas I avoided, I don’t need to avoid them as a teacher with young children. I learned that I am doing math and science on a daily basis. I have a newfound enjoyment for both science and math.” - ELMS Student