

## TEACHING EFFECTIVELY IN HUMSS: TAILORED STRATEGIES FOR SPECIALIZED SUBJECTS

*by:*

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Teachers are facing the unique challenge of instructing students in the Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) Strand. These students delve into specialized subjects that require a distinct set of instructional strategies to maximize learning outcomes. Thus, deep understanding of the effective teaching methodologies tailored for HUMSS students, emphasizing the importance of engagement, and relevance of interactive learning are needed in the demands of modern teaching and learning experiences.

HUMSS students are inherently curious individuals with a passion for exploring the complexities of human society. Recognizing their innate interest in their major subjects such as Introduction to World Religions and Belief Systems, Disciplines and Ideas in the Social Sciences, Creative Writing, Disciplines and Ideas in the Applied Social Sciences, Creative Nonfiction, Philippine Politics and Governance, Trends, Networks, and Critical Thinking in the 21st Century, Community Engagement, Solidarity and Citizenship is crucial for effective teaching. Making the curriculum relevant and meaningful by connecting the subject matter to the local context like using local examples and relevant issues can be utilized in teaching the above-mentioned subjects. Tailoring instructional methods to align with their interests ensures a more engaged and participative learning environment.

One of the most effective strategies for teaching specialized subjects in HUMSS is emphasizing real-world relevance, as this reflects their own perspective to actual social situations. With the use of teaching strategies that encourage students to actively participate in the learning process, like role-plays, simulations, and case studies allow

students to apply theoretical concepts to real-world situations. By connecting theoretical concepts to contemporary issues and events, teachers can bridge the gap between the classroom and the world outside. This approach not only enhances understanding but also instills a sense of the subject's practical applications in students' lives and promotes a deeper understanding of the subject matter which encourages them to take ownership of their learning.

HUMSS students thrive in environments that encourage critical thinking and articulate expression, which are considered as their area of specialty. Incorporating interactive discussions, debates, and problem-solving activities into lessons cultivates these skills while creating a dynamic learning atmosphere. Teachers can pose thought-provoking questions, encourage diverse perspectives, and guide students in articulating well-reasoned arguments. This nurtures communication and critical thinking skills among students.

In addition, collaborative learning can be an effective strategy for teaching specialized subjects in HUMSS. Encourage students to work in groups, discuss concepts, and share their ideas and perspectives. This promotes peer-to-peer learning and enhances students' ability to work collaboratively, which is an essential skill in many social sciences fields. Facilitate group discussions, debates, and group projects that encourage students to learn from and with each other.

Given the digital age, incorporating multimedia elements into lessons is inevitable. Utilizing documentaries, articles, interviews, and relevant online resources helps to supplement traditional teaching methods. Visual and auditory aids cater to varied learning styles and preferences, making complex topics more accessible and engaging for HUMSS students. Additionally, multimedia integration fosters a holistic understanding of subjects by providing diverse perspectives.

The HUMSS strand inherently lends itself to experiential learning opportunities. Organizing symposiums through inviting guest speakers, or facilitating internships allows students to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. These experiences provide valuable insights into potential career paths, making education more tangible and meaningful.

Traditional assessment methods may not fully capture the capabilities of HUMSS students. We are in the modern classroom setting, thus incorporating a variety of assessment strategies, such as project-based assessments, research papers, and presentations, accommodates diverse learning styles and allows students to showcase their strengths. Providing constructive feedback encourages continuous improvement and a deeper engagement with the subject matter.

Moreover, staying updated with the latest research, trends, and best practices in teaching specialized subjects in HUMSS is one of the challenges that the teachers are facing today. By attending professional development workshops, conferences, and engaging in continuous learning opportunities can enhance their teaching skills. Incorporate innovative instructional strategies, technologies, and resources that can further enhance students' engagement and understanding of the subject matter.

Teaching effectively in specialized subjects within the HUMSS Strand demands a nuanced and adaptive approach. By understanding the unique characteristics of HUMSS students and implementing strategies that emphasize real-world relevance, interactivity, multimedia integration, experiential learning, and adaptive assessment, teachers can create a vibrant learning environment that not only imparts knowledge but also nurtures critical thinking, creativity, and a lifelong passion for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Through these tailored approaches, teachers can empower HUMSS students to navigate the complexities of human society with confidence and intellectual curiosity.

*References:*

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