## Handout: Liven Up a Lecture

While time-honored, lecturing is a boring way to teach. For a lecture to be effective, the presenter should build interest, understanding and retention, involve participants, and reinforce what has been presented. Below are ten tips.

Building interest

1. l**ead-off story or interesting visual.** Provide a relevant anecdote, fictional story, cartoon, or graphically captures the audience's attention.
2. Initial case problem. Present a problem around which the lecture will be structured.
3. Test question. Ask participants a question (even if they have little prior knowledge) so that they will be motivated to listen for the answer.

Maximizing understanding and retention

1. **Headlines.** Reduce the major points in the lecture to keywords that act as verbal subheadings or memory aids.
2. **Examples and analogies.** Provide real-life illustrations of the ideas in the lecture and, if possible, create a comparison between your material in the knowledge and experience the participants already have.
3. **Visual backup.** Use flip charts, brief handouts, and demonstrations that enable participants to see as well as hear what you are saying.

Involving participants during the lecture

1. **Spot Challenges**. Interrupt the lecture periodically and challenge participants to give examples of the concepts presented thus far, or to answer spot quiz questions.
2. **Illuminating Activities.** Intersperse brief activities that illuminate the points you are making.

Reinforcing the lecture

1. **Application Problem.**  Post a problem or question for participants to solve based on the information given in the lecture.
2. **Participant Review.** Ask participants to review the contents of the lecture with one another or give them a self-scoring review test.