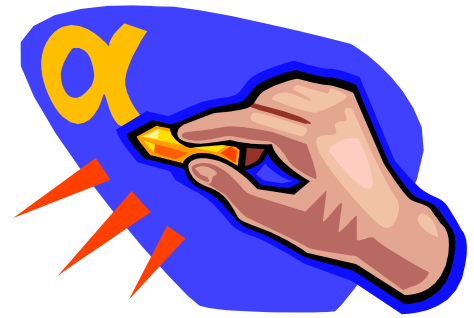


Using a Marker Board to Present Technical Content

Problem:

As a teacher, there are times when your desired teaching strategy fails to support individual learning needs. Students learn in a variety of ways. Some students learn better through visualization practices while others learn better from listening to lectures. When presenting technical content, many students have a hard time comprehending terms and concepts without having a visual aid to use as a reference.



Solution:

To address the problem of incorporating audio and visual learning to a lesson, teachers must often prepare drawings to support the learning materials. Using the marker board or chalk board as a visual support for your lesson is one of the most widely used strategies because of the ease of accessibility. All classrooms are equipped with a standard chalkboard or marker board.

Using a Chalkboard or Marker Board:

Presenting visual material to support learning content can be done efficiently using a chalkboard or a marker board. When using a marker board as an instructional medium, it is important to consider the following recommendations:

- Make sure the students are able to see and read what you have written.
- Your “board should serve to highlight and clarify your discussion or lecture.” (IU, 2003, pg. 22)
- Organize your marker board so that your students will be able to interpret your notes.
- When preparing your board, always start at the top and work your way down.
- Have your marker board prepared before your students enter the class.
- Only erase materials when you have run out of space.
- As you’re writing new notes on the board, talk to your students about what you are writing. Talking as your writing “gives your students the material in both visual and auditory modes.” (IU, 2003, pg. 21)
- If you plan on having your students copy the information from the board, give them ample time to copy the work.
- Do not ask your students questions while they are writing.

Advantages and Disadvantages of a Chalkboard or Marker Board

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marker and chalk boards are reusable.• Helps highlight and clarify your lecture or discussion• Supports learning by providing visual examples or models.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It takes time to develop your board which can take away from class time.• Visuals may be hard for your students to understand.• When writing or erasing the board, your back is turned to your students.

Figure 1: Advantages and Disadvantages of a Chalkboard or Marker Board (Derickson, S, 2001)

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2. Derickson, Stanley. Principles and Methods of Teaching. (2001). Varied **Teaching** Methods. Retrieved 11-04-03 from: <http://www.open.org/mrdsnts/pmtch16.htm>

