

Teaching For Success 4.0

Success Insights

Defanging the “Hurry Trap” Pt 2

The response to a previous Success Insight on the “Hurry Trap” was startlingly robust. I thought there must be more to this topic, and there is. I looked for more practical steps to spring open the hurry trap.

What I found is a practical success strategy that is simple and powerful that jumped out at me as I read a small book by Brian Tracy, *Eat That Frog!*

Tracy, citing the words of Theodore Roosevelt, “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.” explains that there is a law of three one should always consider when the goal is to improve performance enough to bound out of the hurry trap.

Applying the Law of Three is simple. You make top-three lists. Let’s say your goal is to improve your teaching enough to significantly reduce the time and effort you are spending on each class. Your next step would be to open a text file, or my favorite, a fresh sheet of a mini yellow pad I keep for thinking, planning and analysis work.

Here are some top-three questions that you might write on a yellow pad or enter into a text file:

- What are the my three best teaching skills that benefit my students?
- What are the top three outcomes that I desire for this class session or course?
- What are the top three things I enjoy most about teaching and learning.
- What are the top three concerns I have about my class?
- What are the top three barriers that I see to achieving the outcomes I desire?
- What are the top three strategies that I could use to overcome these barriers to success?
- What are the top three concepts my students must know and to what performance level must they know it by the end of this class or course?
- What are the top three time wasters in my class or course right now?
- What are the top three reasons my college hired me to teach this class?

I think you get the idea. But better than using my questions concoct your own. Questions are powerful. Questions get you and your students thinking and focusing. Answering pointed “Top Three” questions will inspire you to think openly, creatively, and concentratedly.

The answers provide you with the strategies, action steps, and added personal power necessary to defang most hurry traps. And the less hurried you feel, the more you teach for success. The more success you experience the more effective and authentic you can be. It's an upward spiral that will carry you out of deepest hurry traps.

*~John H. (Jack) Shrawder, Exec. Director,
TFS Faculty Success Center*