

The White Lie: Twisting the Truth to Improve Student Motivation

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Introduction

- Motivation can affect how students approach the school, instructors, or time and effort invested into a class; no matter how effective the instructor or curriculum is can affect the well-being of the entire course (Usher & Kober, 2012).
- However, it is problematic to get students interested and exceed expectations in the classroom.



Future Plans & Recommendations

- Can be integrated into multiple agricultural courses.
- Not to be used constantly in the class, but occasionally, when a topic is not that interesting to your students.
- Not intended to affect students negatively but are to benefit their learning process.

Costs & Resources Needed

- Minimal due to the materials purchased for the projects had already been calculated into the budget for the course.

How it Works

- In a postsecondary agricultural structures course that uses team-based learning, the instructor informed the teams to build a picnic table of their choice.
- The white lie was the two teams selected best would go to the auction at the San Antonio Gala or partner with a local building supply store.

Results to Date

- Boosted student's motivation to construct projects with the best design and work together to achieve the top placing in the class.
- 85% of the teams exceeded the instructors' expectations for the project, using innovative and unique designs.
- Led the instructor to tell the future classes the same white lie for their project, this time a set of Adirondack chairs.

