

TEACHING ELEMENTS MUDDIEST POINT

VERSION 1.0 | 5/27/14

OVERVIEW:

This technique assesses students' comprehension. Students are asked to identify the "muddiest point" or where they lack clarity related to a concept, assignment or class lecture/discussion.

PROCESS:

1. Identify the concept/assignment you want students to evaluate.
2. At the beginning or near the end of class, ask students to write down their answer to the question, "What was the muddiest point in _____?" stressing that you will use their input to shape the focus of the class lecture/discussion. Point out that it can be frustrating for them if you spend time covering material they are already comfortable with and this technique allows you to spend time on the content they are having the most difficulty with.
3. Provide students with index cards or paper. Stress that students do not have to put their names on their responses.
4. Review responses and note any areas of commonality. Adjust the course lecture/content to cover the areas the most students were struggling with.