

TEACHING ELEMENTS

WHAT'S THE PRINCIPLE?

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OVERVIEW:

This technique assesses students' ability to select the appropriate principle(s) to apply to a given problem, a critical step in the problem solving process. Students are given a defined problem and ask to select the most appropriate principle(s) to apply to solving that problem.

PROCESS:

1. Identify the basic principles that you cover in your course.
2. Find or develop sample problems or short examples that illustrate each of these principles.
3. Create a What's the Principle? form that includes a list of the principles you have covered in the class to-date, and sample problems/examples.
4. Ask students to match the principle to the problem/example.
 - For example, in a web design course, you might provide the URL for a website example and ask students which design principles they believe were used in the creation of the website.
5. Calculate the number of correct and incorrect answers and use this information to review principles students seem to be struggling with.