Share A Tip And Win Prizes

If you've developed a teaching technique that works in your classroom to help convey the important messages in the hunter education curriculum, we would like to hear about it. We are looking for tips that teach safety, ethics and other topics. The tips should create fun for the class and be easy for the instructor to make or implement. If your tip is selected, you will receive a useful prize or coupon for free hunting gear. Send your teaching tips to HEJ Teaching Tips, P.O. Box 3443, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

A Positive Teaching Practice

As instructors we must not forget that our students are experiencing a new world when they take one of our courses. The amount of new information can be overwhelming.

I have found a positive reinforcement method that has worked well. I refer to it as the 2:1 Method. This method is extremely easy and has lasting results. All that instructors need to do when they are teaching and correcting a student is to note and mention two positive actions that the student accomplished before correcting the mistake.

Here is an example: A student was asked to demonstrate the proper method to fire a shotgun. We noticed that the student was standing too upright and not leaning forward to support the recoil that would follow the shot. This is the point we corrected.

To practice the 2:1 Method, we first noted that the student has his or her feet the proper width for support and that the shotgun is firmly placed against the shoulder. These are two things done correctly. Next, the instructor suggests that for safety and better firearm control the shooter should lean into the shot to show perfect form.

What have we accomplished here? The student was praised for correct actions and will want to learn more. We affirmed the two points done correctly as a positive review for the student and the class. We corrected the mistake in a manner that will promote a willingness to learn and participate in the class. The other students will see this as a non-threatening correction and not fear embarrassment if they forget an action when it is their turn to demonstrate. The 2:1 Method helps break down the teacher-student barrier.

Tim Cameron
New Brunswick, Canada

Numbered Books Mix The Class

In the past, our youth firearms safety class has had the problem of friends coming together to the classroom and sitting next to each other. Quite often this leads to them distracting each other. We number the textbooks from 1 to 8, the number of tables in our classroom, and hand out the books after the students sit down. After the books are handed out, all of the students are required to move to the table with the number that matches their book and remain at that table for all classes. Any student caught not sitting at the correct table has to start at the front of the classroom. This process of seating the students has led to a quieter and more constructive setting for the training.

Robert McClelland
New Ulm, Minnesota

Preservation Versus Conservation

To teach the difference between preservation and conservation, I give the students small bags of M&Ms. Some preserve theirs by leaving the bag unopened and eating none. Others conserve theirs by eating a few at a time and not all at once.

Chris Beebe
East Sparta, Ohio

INDUSTRY CONNECTION

IHEA Instructor & Agency Discounts Purchase Program and Materials: These discounts are offered to agencies or instructors for use in hunter education programs as indicated by the manufacturer. In the past when we published phone numbers, they were swamped with calls. Contact them in writing only. Proof of IHEA membership or active instructor card required. Original signed ink copy of FFL required for firearm purchases.

CVA is offering its.50 caliber muzzle-loading Youth Hunter Rifle package to hunter education instructors. The rifle features a 24-inch octagon barrel and hardwood stock designed for young shooters and small-framed adults. The package includes a solvent, patches, a nipple wrench, bullet starter and various accessories. An instructional video and hardside gun case is included.

Available on May 1, 1999 for $149.95, including shipping and handling. For an order form, contact: Youth Hunter Rifle Package, Box 7225, Norcross, GA 30091 or call (770) 449-4687.

What materials or equipment do you have on your instructor wish-list that would make your classroom instructing easier for you and better for the students? Send responses to: Hunter Education Journal, P.O. Box 3443, Minnetonka, MN 55343.