



Create a Memorable Class with Techy, Pirate Teaching

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Podcast: [Google Teacher Tribe Podcast](#) co-host with Kasey Bell

Books: [Ditch That Textbook](#), [Ditch That Homework](#) and Tech Like a Pirate (Coming soon!)

A little bit about Matt

- ❑ Former newspaper reporter and then high school Spanish teacher in rural Indiana.
- ❑ Currently a speaker, blogger, and author traveling around the country and beyond sharing practical ways to ditch that textbook.

Why is attention so important?

- “Don’t just teach a lesson, create an experience.” Dave Burgess, Teach Like A Pirate
- Research supports the importance of engagement and enjoyment in learning.
 - [The Neuroscience of Joyful Education](#) by Judy Willis Educational Leadership
 - [The Happiness Advantage](#) by Shawn Achor
 - [National Institute for Play](#)

“If class is so forgettable, how can we expect students to remember?”

How can we use technology to get our students’ attention?

- Overwhelm can create a barrier for us when integrating technology.
 - “It’s not having too many options, it’s not knowing where to start.” Author unknown.
- How can we get started?
 - Start small

- Find an app, website or tool that makes you think “You know what? I can do that.”
 - Start with impact
 - Where are the places in our instruction where we can get the greatest impact?
 - Start with excitement
 - What is it that I’m excited about?
- You don’t have to know or have all of the things.

8 ways to use technology to grab your students attention:

1. Images

- Memes can be a great way for students to highlight their takeaway from a lesson or activity.
 - Creation tools, tips, and resources:
 - [Google Drawings](#)
 - [5 Google Drawings features you \(probably\) don’t know about](#)
 - [The Google Drawings Manifesto for Teachers](#)
 - Classic meme font is **Impact**
 - Keyboard shortcut: Increase or decrease text size using ctrl (or command) + shift + .> and ctrl (or command) + shift + ,<
 - Insert > “word art” to create an outline around the text
 - [Caption This! A fun, deep-thinking Google Drawings activity](#)
- Create infographics or icon boards to give students to opportunity to pair text with images. Dual coding theory tells us that text paired with images stays in our brain longer.
 - Creation tools, tips, and resources:
 - Templates here: [Google Slides icon boards for low-prep, visual thinking](#)
 - Keyboard shortcut: Use ctrl or command D to duplicate.
 - [The Noun Project](#)

2. Games

- [End the school year with Epic Review Olympics \(free templates!\)](#)
 - Teams competed against one another, all teams stayed the same throughout the experience.
 - Played Bugler’s Dream by Leo Arnaud
- Creation tools, tips, and resources:
 - [We don’t do tests: Using Gimkit for assessment](#) by Omoyemwen Ngei

- [Game show classroom: Comparing Kahoot!, Quizizz, Quizlet Live and Gimkit](#)
- [14 ways to turn your class into a game show](#)

3. Video

- Creating a video is so easy these days. Recording a video is fun and ok but how can we change video creation into an experience?
 - Creation tools, tips, and resources:
 - [Screencastify](#)
 - [24 ways to create great classroom video with Screencastify](#)
 - [Flipgrid](#)
 - [Shorts season: An introduction to the NEW Flipgrid camera](#) by Mike Mohammed
 - Ideas:
 - Record video as a news anchor. Take a step further and have students collaborate with a reporter on the scene. [Flipgrid](#) is a great tool for this.
 - Record videos as a popular game show.
 - Example: Cash Cab
 - Record videos that mimic popular movies or YouTube videos.
 - Example: The Blair Witch Project
 - [20 video project ideas to engage students](#)

4. Social media and apps

- [Google Slides templates for Snapchat games in class](#)
- [Using Google Slides to create Instagram Stories in class](#)
- [WOW Wednesday! FORTNITE Digital Menu for Student Creation!](#)

5. Collaboration

- [Student collaboration in shared Google Slides](#)
- [Digital gallery walk: Collaboration on their feet](#)
- [Add and pass: A fun activity to get them moving AND creating](#)

6. Exploration

- [20 locations to tour virtually with Google Maps Street View](#)
- [Virtual walking tours with Street View and Screencastify](#)
- [Creating with Google Earth: 10 activities to try](#)

7. Go Global

- [Matt's resources for using Skype/Google Hangouts to make global connections!](#)

8. Use Stories

- [Choice stories in Google Slides: How to + ideas for class](#)
- [Crash! Bang! Boom! How to add Google Drawings comic strips to your class](#)

Is this going to work???

- Think like a scientist and use the results to learn what is working for you and your students.
 - Results aren't just grades in the grade book or on the end of the year test.
 - Your students' attention and engagement can show you if something is working.
 - Even if something doesn't work the way you wanted it still gives you the results you need to move forward to plan on how to use technology to grab your students' attention.