

# 10 Tips to Increase Classroom Motivation

## Did you know that...



Kids are more likely to learn when learning feels relevant and personalized to them.



Kids are more likely to engage if they know what they are doing has purpose.



One of the biggest motivators kids can have is the belief that they can make impact.

## Relevance and Motivation.

Relevance is when a student can connect the learning to themselves, the world around them or their lives. When learning is relevant, kids find a purpose to the learning and this increases their drive to learn. It also makes learning much more fun and real to them.

Developing the drive to learn matters just as much as teaching academics. The more kids want to learn, the more they will actually learn. But planning engaging lessons takes time and resources. At Rock by Rock we are here to help. That's why we created this "Top 10 Tips" guide, to provide some low-lift ways you can help light that fire of student motivation.



# Top 10 Tips to Make Learning Relevant



**Tip 1: Focus on your students' interests:** Start by learning about what your students are interested in and what they are talking about at the lunch table or at recess. Use that as a way to create a hook for a lesson or connect a skill to something that feels relevant to them.

**Tip 2: "Let's Learn" board:** At the start of the year, have kids write down all the real world things they want to learn about and post them to your "Let's Learn" board. Try to incorporate those interests into text choice, discussion and enrichment. Star or check off topics as you cover them.

**Tip 3: Create a project:** How can kids apply what they have learned in a hands on way? Projects are a great way for kids to take anything that they have been learning and think about making real-world impact. Can they make a PSA, podcast, or graphic design? What are some challenging but fun ways that they can show what they have learned in a concrete way?



**Tip 4: Offer choices:** Kids don't always have enough choice in their lives. When you offer a choice they feel like they have agency and autonomy over their learning. For example, maybe you let them pick the topic of learning. Or see if you can add a "choose your own adventure" option to an activity. If that feels too hard, start with just giving kids more than one option for how to do something.

**Tip 5: Connect to current events:** Kids know what is going on in the world and want to talk about it and process it. Connect learning to current events that are impacting their lives. It can be school events, community events, or even world events. You can start small by making space each day to just discuss current events.





**Tip 6: Connect to careers:** What do you want to be when you grow-up? We ask that question a lot and some kids know, others don't and in most cases the answer will change month to month as kids explore different careers. That's great. Let's encourage that exploration. You can connect learning to one career a week, or you can create a first day of school career profile and have kids tell you what careers they want to learn more about. Make career discussion a part of your weekly routine.

**Tip 7: Encourage debate:** Pick topics that are meaty and kids can sink their teeth into. For example: Should we eat insects to reduce our environmental impact? Should we pass laws to reduce plastic pollution or rely on people to make their own choices? There is joy in grappling with issues that matter.

**Tip 8: Organize a virtual field trip:** Take students on a virtual field trip. Zoos, museums and other organizations offer live virtual field trips, some are free. If you don't have budget to book a live virtual experience, find a virtual field trip on YouTube (there are hundreds) and make an event out of it. Make popcorn, tickets, and hold a viewing party.

**Tip 9: Set and reflect on goals:** When kids set goals for themselves, it makes learning feel more personal. This increases relevance and the drive to learn especially if you create a routine of setting and reflecting on goals ongoing. Start small and set aside ten minutes each week for kids to make and reflect on individual goals.

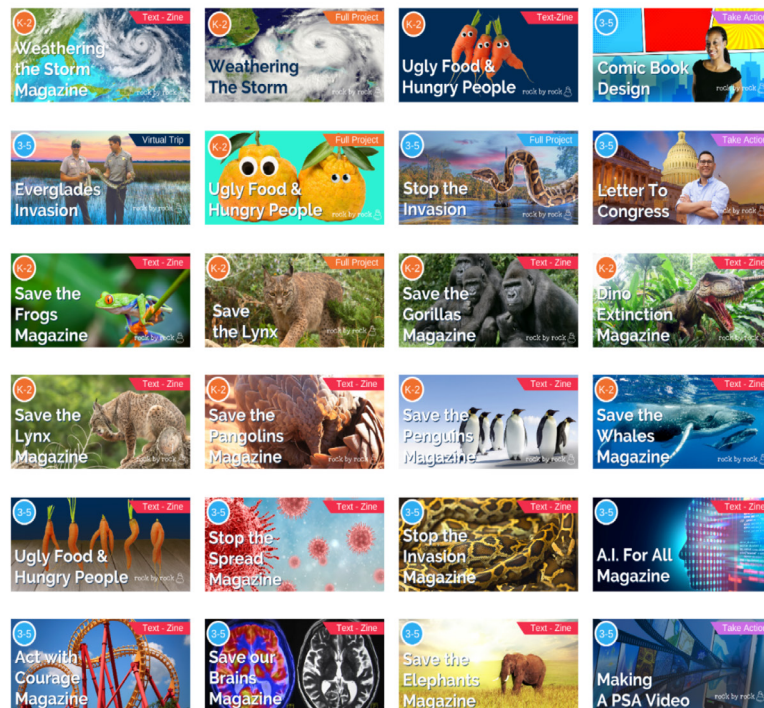
**Tip 10: Share your why:** Kids want to build a relationship with you and want to know why you think learning a topic or skill matters. Show them why it matters to you personally or the value you see in the learning. Share about your life and why something like a project about protecting the rainforest matters to you.



# Looking for more motivating activities ?

Check out [rockbyrock.com](https://rockbyrock.com)

for a full library of ready-to-go, relevant projects & resources



- **Choice:** A full library of hybrid projects. The best of online and hands-on learning.
- **STEM + Literacy:** Learn science content and build reading, writing and ELA skills.
- **Empowerment:** Empower kids to solve real-world problems.
- **Career Exposure:** Meet experts and professionals who teach kids about each topic.
- **Relevance:** Experience why learning matters and make easy connections to their world and life.