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University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
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Teaching Tip

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Teacher or Facilitator

Extension agents, assistants and specialists need to be both teacher and facilitator. What is the difference?

Teaching focuses on delivering information. It takes place in a short amount of time, often as a lecture. Activities help the participants remember the information provided. Evaluation is based on knowing the correct answer.

Facilitation focuses on the learning process by recognizing the expertise of the participants. It is more effective when sessions allow participants to get to know each other, creating a trusted environment. Activities apply participant information to use in real-life decisions. Participants are guided to seek additional information. Participants have a different outcome based on the issue(s) that are important to them.

Do you stand in front of the group or move around as you interact? Room arrangements can influence the ability and effectiveness of facilitation. Are the seats facing the front of the room for a lecture or in a U-shape so participants can see and interact with each other? Are you providing information or generating ideas? Want to learn more about effecting teaching and facilitation?

Effective Teaching Methods training will be presented at the Hardin County Extension office on December 12th from 9:30 ET until 4 p.m. Topics include: Creating an Effective Teaching Environment; Program Development, Preparation and Organization; Classroom Management Techniques; and Modes of Communication. Presenters include: Pam Sigler, Sally Mineer, Ricky Yeargan, Jennifer Tackett, Sarah Bowker, Chris Schalk, Dayna Parrett, and Whitney Hildebrand.

Resource:

Wise, D. *Journal of Extension*, June 2017. "Teaching or Facilitating Learning? Selecting the Optimal Approach for Your Educational Objectives and Audience." Online at <https://www.joe.org/joe/2017june/tt1.php>

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