DESCA Scale to Rate Your Program

Dignity

1 2 3 4 5

Low self-worth: Students slouch or mope, as if they feel unimportant, weak, or hopeless. Or they act as if they will be worthless without success or the approval of others. Little evidence of self-confidence, self-respect, or self-esteem

Students work will full dignity: Talented or not, students sit and walk tall, acting self-assured. Students seem confident that they can succeed and can handle it when they don't succeed. Students seem secure in their self-worth.

Energy

1 2 3 4 5

Students lifeless or anxious: Mood too slow; much inactivity, waiting, apathy, time-wasting. Or mood too frantic, stressful, exhausting, anxious.

Student energy flows comfortably: Students keep busy, engaged, active. The mood is comfortably alive. No evidence of clock-watching. Time tends to fly.

Self-Management

1 2 3 4 5

Students only follow orders: No evidence of self-responsibility, initiative, self-direction, personal choice. Work is passive without personal commitment.

Students largely self-managing: Students make appropriate choices, guide and discipline themselves, work willfully, persistingly, and don't seem to feel bossed.

Community

1 2 3 4 5

Students totally self-centered: Students act only for personal advantage, unconcerned with others' welfare. No evidence of sharing, teamwork, belonging, or kindness among peers or toward adults.

A togetherness mood prevails: Much sharing, cooperation, kindness, interdependence. No antagonism, teasing, rejection. Students often act to support one another and the teacher.

Awareness

1 2 3 4 5

Students bored or in mindless busywork: Class is dull; Students seem unaware, unresponsive, or narrow-minded and shallow. Little or no thinking, searching, concentrating. Much inattentiveness. Students talk impulsive or reckless thoughts.

Students aware and alert: Much concentration, observing, listening, thinking, noticing, evaluating, creating. Students appear to be mindful, aware of what is going on. Attentiveness is at high level. Student conversation is thoughtful.

From *Strategies to Inspire Active Learning,* by Merrill Harmin, available from Inspiring Strategy Institute, 44 Midchester Ave, White Plains, NY 10606 Phone: 1-888-811-3793