**IDEAS FOR KEEPING STUDENTS’ ATTENTION AND FOCUS** 

**Note: Large ≠ Lecture only; many of these can be used in large classes as well.**

* “Where are you right now?” scale for focusing *(Example: “Using a scale of 1 to 10, rate your understanding of what I have just covered in this lecture”)*
* Use element of change, surprise, wonder *(Example: use a different room arrangement; “Today, you’re going to teach me (the instructor) or each other the concept of \_\_\_\_\_\_”; bring in an item that represents some aspect of your content and place in front of room, asking students to make a response…even cover it up initially)*
* Unusual pictures, a quote, poem, word with definition (or have students write the definition), music, piece of art, collection of objects *(Example: use a cartoon or other prompt, having students create the caption or definition; have a slide in power point that elicits participation)*
* Participatory power point *(Example: insert periodic multiple choice questions that might appear on a test; insert a “think, pair, share” activity; insert a task that involves movement)*
* One-minute paper or cards *(Example: write a question, write something you just learned, reflect on what has happened so far in discussion)*
* Stop and stretch (Example: have students stand up, take a few deep breaths, or stretch arms over head, or twist left and right)
* Indicate answer on slip of paper, individual white board, chart paper *(Example: vote for an option; take a stand; put post-it note on chart paper; write your contribution on chart paper)*
* Indicate opinion by moving to side or corner of room *(Example: if you agree that there should be armed guards in schools, move to the right side of the room)*
* Think, pair, share; “buzz” groups *(Example, “Think about the theory we just covered…how does it apply to your family? Then turn to the person to your left and share your response…have your partner share his/her response with you…be prepared to comment to the whole group)*
* Use “outline” or “guided” notes *(Example, put a “shell” of your lecture/content on Blackboard or use a “fill-in-the-blanks” format for students to take notes; you can also incorporate focusing activities in this format)*