Resources

Learning and Student Motivation

There is a rich literature of psychological studies on motivation and human learning, most of which—although the actual language may vary—contrast extrinsic motivation (performing for a grade) with intrinsic motivation (developing an internalized interest in the subject matter). Many of the studies below chart experiments which tested the relationship between motivation orientation (extrinsic or intrinsic) and performance, and many of them offer practical suggestions for helping our students develop an intrinsic interest in—and hence an intrinsic motivation for—studying our subject matter.


