

Alswager Helpful Hints

- A great way to engage learners is creating lesson plans where learners solve some type of musical problem. The bigger the lesson (i.e. one day or a large unit) the more layers of musical problems. Here is a great list of tips for creating a musical problem from Jackie Wiggins' book *Teaching for Musical Understanding* p72.
 - Design a musical problem emanating from one of your learning objectives.
 - Create a need to know (from the learners' perspective).
 - Consider what groundwork will be necessary for learners to be able to solve the problem. What would they need to know to be successful?
 - Consider how learners will work to solve the problem.
 - Consider how they will share their solutions (informal sharing? Formative assessment? Summative assessment?)
- Do you use velcro to mark your learning space? If you'd like to change it up a little, there is a company called SitSpots that manufactures carpet-safe velcro shapes that can be used for place markers. Their website will send you a free sample to test on your carpet: <https://www.sitspots.com/> Look for the "Free Sample" tab on the grey-colored menu.
- Do you find yourself often stopping class to listen to comments and stories from students? Implement a thought box station in your class where students can write you their thoughts. It's a great way for students to communicate with you about their life or happenings with classmates. This idea was first shared to me by my colleague Nikki Schaefer, it's great!