

April, 1995 - Donal T. MacVeigh, S.J., Computer Science

I have two teaching tips. I have found that if I have a long class (such as the two-hour evening courses or the hour 25 minute MBA courses), it is very helpful to put a rather detailed outline of the material I intend to cover on a foil on the overhead projector. The students like it, for it gives them an overview: they can see where the class is going. But it also keeps me on track. At any time I can see what the next point to be covered is.

Another tip I found useful is to have teams of students make short (3-5 minute) presentations of some material near the end of the term. I insist they give me detailed outline a week or so ahead of time so that they do not show up unprepared. I help them with the visual aids, such as overhead transparency foils or computer programs. A few years ago two students took 45 minutes for 5 minute presentation of "Graphics in Turbo Pascal." At the end, the class stood up and applauded - a good effort, and quite interesting. Most are not of that quality, but since they know they are being graded on the presentation they do a creditable job.