Human minds are distractable.

Attention & Distractions
- Videos more than 10 minutes long.
- Attention drops.

TEACHING DISTRACTED MINDS: OLD CHALLENGES, NEW CONTEXTS!
- James Lang
- Illustrated by Mahmoud Shillout
- @mac_tooth
- March 2021

ACHIEVEMENT OF ATTENTION
- Attention is an achievement requiring:
  1. Focus
  2. Blocking out distractions

WHY ARE WE DISTRACTED?
- Novelty
- Information
- Foraging
- Curiosity
- Phones are great at distractions!

STRUCTURE: teaching like a playwright
- Program
- Scene changes
- Acts
- Intermission
- Why are we doing it?
- What are we doing?
- What happens next?

What helps you focus?
- Not helping?
- What could I do differently?

INDEX CARDS
- Which sequence helps you learn best?
- Help them determine order

RENEWAL
- Unexpected!
- Don't fall into routine.
- Sensitive attention

connections to real life?

begin with engagement

low stakes assessment in the middle

engagement grade

index cards

teaching grade

focus on important aspects

human minds are distractable

hearing flute distracts from listening to arguments

1907 telegraph distraction

we were never more attentive!

Policy

To

Inform students about distraction and their use of devices.

Warm language!

Empathy, relate to you.

Community

Take their recommendations.

Identify a show that illustrates a concept from class.

Closure engagement activity