

*As an (emerging) expert in your field, you may inadvertently skip steps and leave out information that students need in order to effectively develop mastery. This is called **the expert blind spot**.*

Below are four general strategies that can help you to mitigate and avoid the effects of the expert blind spot:

Strategy 1: Provide “Points of Entry”

- Define specialized terms
- Give examples
- Link to prior knowledge
- Emphasize context & relevance
- Go step-by-step through the material (and be explicit about the steps!)

Strategy 2: Offer Explanations

- Emphasize context.
- Explain *why* something is important and/or relevant.
- Highlight main ideas.
- Identify steps in a procedure and explain how they fit together.
- Encourage students to construct explanations.
- Move slowly and systematically through the material.

Strategy 3: Provide Structure

- Provide an outline early in a recitation session.
- Highlight and summarize main points and key takeaways at the end of a session/conversation.
- Explain where the current material fits into the course as a whole.
- Explicitly identify steps in a procedure.

Strategy 4: Check Comprehension (often!)

- Regularly pause to ask students content & comprehension questions.
- Give students enough time to answer your questions.
- Begin with simpler questions and build toward more complex ones.
- Ask students to fill in missing information or direct a solution.
- Ask about connections between ideas, how something might be applied, and so on.