Motivation refers to an incitement of action. When related to the classroom, it refers to the ability to cause excitement in a student. There are two basic kinds of motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic.

**Intrinsic Motivation Explained**

Intrinsic motivation is explained as motivating oneself with no external prodding. It refers to someone who does something for no other reason than the personal reward, fulfillment or joy.

**Extrinsic Motivation Explained**

The extrinsically motivated person performs to avoid punishment or to gain a reward. Simple rewards such as money, stickers or grades can be motivating factors.

**Comparison**

While two people can work on the task or learn the subject matter, the intrinsically motivated person will work on a task for the personal fulfilment, while the extrinsically motivated might work on the task with little interest other than the reward. Intrinsic is the most desirable method of motivation because it displays a positive attitude on the part of the student and generally results in better comprehension.

**Benefits of Intrinsic Motivation**

Intrinsically minded students are naturally more curious and often pursue more difficult subject matters. Benefits include a deeper understanding and knowledge on subject matter.

**Conclusion**

While it is useful to employ several forms of motivation, it is important to note extrinsic motivation must be backed up with intrinsic motivation or the value of the lesson will be lost.

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