Your course has a beginning, middle, and end. Each of these pieces is important for a fully positive student experience. While instructors usually have a good sense of what to put into the beginning and middle of the course, they often aren’t aware of how important a strong finish is. Learning on your own and getting to the end of the course is actually hard work for the students, and when they reach the end, they want to feel a sense of reward and accomplishment. Students who feel rewarded at the end of the course are more satisfied with their overall experience and generally leave more positive reviews.

So, think about ways to add a sense of reward for finishing your course. At the very least you should have a congratulations lecture where you let students know that they’ve reached their goal and should be very proud.

Let students know how they can continue their path, now that they’ve finished the course. What are concrete topics they should learn about next? What are ways they can continue their practice? If possible, provide names of books, in-person trainings, other online courses, etc.

Some instructors offer a fun project at the end of the course. This shouldn’t be the only activity in your course, but it’s a great way to combine everything student’s have learned and put it into practice. It’s also a great way to motivate students who are earlier in the course to get excited about what’s ahead.

You could send out a list of students-of-the-month or offer personal feedback or a Q&A session for students who completed the course or the project.

To boost the motivation of your students, regularly create deadlines for your activities via educational announcements and recognize students who finish on time.

Have a reflection activity at the end for students to evaluate their learning.

You could also add a feedback survey to get detailed feedback on the course, like your teaching delivery, sections students found valuable, and updates you can make to the course content.

If you want to get super creative, you can even add fun bonus lectures. For example, invite a guest speaker, show bloopers from the shoot, or even do a guided meditation to relieve all the stress from having pushed through the course. Just make sure you are in line with the Udemy policies.

Some examples:

A. Congratulations Lecture:

At the very least you should have a congratulations lecture where you let students know that they’ve reached their goal and should be very proud.

B. Next steps:

Let students know how they can continue their path, now that they’ve finished the course. What are concrete topics they should learn about next? What are ways they can continue their practice? If possible, provide names of books, in-person trainings, other online courses, etc.

C. End-of-course-project:

Some instructors offer a fun project at the end of the course. This shouldn’t be the only activity in your course, but it’s a great way to combine everything student’s have learned and put it into practice. It’s also a great way to motivate students who are earlier in the course to get excited about what’s ahead.

D. Prize and Recognition:

You could send out a list of students-of-the-month or offer personal feedback or a Q&A session for students who completed the course or the project.

E. Deadlines:

To boost the motivation of your students, regularly create deadlines for your activities via educational announcements and recognize students who finish on time.

F. Self-evaluation:

Have a reflection activity at the end for students to evaluate their learning.

G. Teacher-evaluation:

You could also add a feedback survey to get detailed feedback on the course, like your teaching delivery, sections students found valuable, and updates you can make to the course content.

H. Bonus Lecture:

If you want to get super creative, you can even add fun bonus lectures. For example, invite a guest speaker, show bloopers from the shoot, or even do a guided meditation to relieve all the stress from having pushed through the course. Just make sure you are in line with the Udemy policies.