

EDGE Method: CFI Quick Reference

Explain | Demonstrate | Guide | Enable. Each step hands the student a little more responsibility than the last. Do not skip ahead.

E

Explain

Build the why before the how | on the ground

DO THIS

Cover the purpose, the principle behind it, the ACS standard, and the failure mode it guards against.

SAY THIS

- > "Here is why we fly this maneuver..."
- > "The ACS tolerance exists because..."
- > "What happens if we skip this step?"

WATCH FOR

- Skipping straight to the demo ("just watch me")
- Information dump: everything at once, no context
- Explaining the how, never the why

D

Demonstrate

Show the target, narrated

DO THIS

Fly it yourself at normal speed. Narrate inputs, cues, and sight picture. Show it at least twice.

SAY THIS

- > "Watch my airspeed as I add power..."
- > "Back pressure now to hold altitude."
- > "See that small correction? That is normal."

WATCH FOR

- One fast pass, or a silent demo
- Idealized demo that never shows a correction
- Narrating mistakes instead of correct technique

G

Guide

Coach in real time, before habits set

DO THIS

Student flies, you talk. Hands near the controls, not on them. Say why before any exchange of controls.

SAY THIS

- > "Watch your airspeed... a little more back pressure."
- > "Good. Hold it right there."
- > "My controls, because... your controls."

WATCH FOR

- Taking the controls at the first wobble
- Guiding silently, or changing your cues each lesson
- Staying in Guide for lesson after lesson

E

Enable

Step back, observe, prove it transfers

DO THIS

Announce the switch, stay quiet except for safety, debrief afterward, then vary the conditions.

SAY THIS

- > "I will not say anything unless it is safety. Fly it."
- > "What did you notice? What would you change?"
- > "Same maneuver, different runway and a crosswind."

WATCH FOR

- Backseat flying out of habit
- Testing only one airport or one set of conditions
- Skipping the debrief, or enabling too early

MOVE ON WHEN...

Explain to Demonstrate	Can the student say why the maneuver works?
Demonstrate to Guide	Have they seen it at least twice, narrated?
Guide to Enable	Are they catching most of their own errors?
Enable complete	Does it hold up at a new airport or in new conditions?

EDGE is Scouting America's teaching method; it parallels the demonstration-performance method and telling-and-doing technique in the FAA Aviation Instructor's Handbook (FAA-H-8083-9). It sits beneath your syllabus and the ACS: those say what to teach, EDGE structures how.