Motivation: As educators, we have a responsibility to provide the encouragement, excitement, relevance, and motivation that students need to get the most out of their educational experience. Except for the highly motivated students, the absence of relevance leads to an absence of motivation and ultimately results in lower grades for a course.

Approach 1: To convey the "excitement and relevance" of organic chemistry when applicable, I bring in the societal relevance of the chemistry we are discussing e.g., show reactions being discussed in class and tie into how they have been implemented on large scale for drug synthesis (example: haloalkane reaction of alkenes used in the large scale synthesis of Crixivan, an anti-AIDS drug developed at Merck.

Discovery of a Novel Anti-Angiogenic Natural Product

Multimedia Approaches to Understanding the Societal Relevance of Organic Chemistry: The Introductory Organic Chemistry Lecture

Showing real world examples of how organic synthesis impacts:
- Basic Cell Biology
- Drug Discovery & Development
- Materials Science

Approach 2: A second approach to convey the "excitement and relevance" of organic chemistry is when possible and pertinent to the subject being discussed in class, I try to tie in some of the research being carried out in my own laboratory into classroom discussion.

Outreach to Local Elementary Schools

Motivation: Educators recognize the importance of reaching the next generation of college students at the earliest stage possible to excite them at an early age into fields important to our nation in years to come with science being a high priority. For these reasons, I have strived to present these multimedia presentations to visiting science teachers during TAMU summer courses (Chem 689; Vickie Williamson) with the hopes of enabling them to pass on this excitement. In addition, I have visited local elementary schools to hopefully excite them about science at a very early age!