Introduction to Active Learning

Instructional Design Team
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Objectives

► Define Active Learning
► Consider options for integration of multiple active learning activities into a class
► Understand the challenges and possible solutions for using active learning in a course
Questions to consider...

- What is active learning?
- What are some considerations for integrating active learning techniques?
- How does active learning help students learn?
Class sleeping.

Kid sleeping in front of laptop.

Active learning engages students in the process of learning through activities and/or discussion in class, as opposed to passively listening to an expert. It emphasizes higher-order thinking and often involves group work.

What does Active Learning look like?

Characteristics of Passive and Active Learners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passive</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Focus on content presentation</td>
<td>Focus on learning processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow instructions</td>
<td>Question and Discuss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor-focused</td>
<td>Learner-focused</td>
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Active Learning Strategies
Why Active Learning?

► “Tell me and I forget. Show me and I remember. Involve me and I understand” Chinese proverb

► Student-centered – empowers students to take control of their learning

► Promotes development of skills and knowledge-building

Sample Activities

- Clarification pauses/questioning
- Minute Paper
- Muddiest Point
- Think-Pair-Share
- Group Collaboration/Discussion
- Debate

Strategies for Success

► Communicate your expectations
► Start small
► Plan and prepare ahead
► Questioning techniques
► Keep students accountable
► Maintain instructor presence

Strategies for Success (cont.)

► Have a clear purpose and objective
► Have a beginning and ending
► Give clear directions and guidance
► Have a debriefing and provide feedback
► Provide support when needed

Activity: Think-Pair-Share

► Work in pairs to discuss individual answers to pre-workshop quiz questions and come to consensus on one final answer.

► Use your answer cards to share your answers with the larger group.

► Online participants will discuss (through the chat tool) the quiz questions as a group and the facilitator will share main points with the larger group.
Obstacles and Solutions

- Limited Time
- Increased preparation time
- Risk
- Limited teaching spaces
- Technology
Summary

- Active Learning is a process of learning through activities and/or discussion in class, as opposed to passively listening to an expert.

- Some considerations for integrating active learning includes having a clear purpose, providing feedback, and maintain instructor presence.

- Active Learning helps students learn because it promotes recall and deeper understanding of material.
Questions?
CTL Teaching Toolkit:
 ctl.jhsph.edu/toolkit
References


