Class Engagement

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Why It Matters

Emory University Center for Faculty Development & Excellence

Keeps Students INVOLVED & INTERESTED

Supports Learning Communities

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Active Learning is more effective:

In 2014, the National Academy of Sciences analyzed results from 225 studies of STEM classes where:
• The same instructor delivered lectures to half of the students randomly assigned and used active learning techniques for the other half
• Found that the student failure rate dropped by 12% points, from a 34% failure rate to a 22% failure rate.

"Most of the studies we analyzed were based on data from identical instructors teaching active learning vs. lecturing sections; some studies (e.g., Van Heuvelen in Am. J. Physics, Deslauriers et al. in Science)...
• Have purposely matched award-winning lecturers with inexperienced teachers who do active learning and found that the students did worse when given "brilliant lectures."
• We’ve yet to see any evidence that celebrated lecturers can help students more than even 1st-generation active learning does."
Students don’t always think so, but it’s true. Let them know why it is important!

We’ve got the WHY...

Now the HOW

How Often?

- Try to do something at least every 20 minutes
- Average attention span ~15 – 20 minutes (ever wonder why TED Talks are 18 minutes?)
- Taking a “brain break” will help students maintain focus over a longer period of time
- For classes longer than 75 minutes, consider including a stretch break
  - 5-10 minutes - students can get up and move around, get a drink etc.
  - Short videos to lead them in stretches

Tip 1: Planned Interactions

Reactions
Polling
Q&A
Annotations

When
✓ When you want quick feedback
✓ Start of class
✓ Concept check-in
✓ After giving directions

In Class:
- Raise hand (literally)
- Colored index cards
- Electronic tools: PollEverywhere, Merlot, etc.

In Zoom:
- Reaction emojis
- Raise hand icon
- Chatbox
Polling

When
✓ Quick feedback
✓ Start of class
✓ Concept check-in
✓ Icebreaker (build community)
✓ Promote engagement

In Class or on Zoom:
• Poll Everywhere (can embedded into PowerPoint!)
• Zoom Polls
• Kahoot
• Socrative

Poll Everywhere
Get Started: https://canvas-support.emory.edu/build/poll-everywhere.html

Word Cloud Example:
• Shows responses in real time
• More frequent responses are larger text
• Participants can join by web or text
• Click “Activate” to allow responses
• “Show responses” generates word cloud and shows changes in real time

Q&A Break

When
✓ Mid-way through class
✓ After major concepts
  • Main concept in a sentence
  • “I still wonder...”
✓ Class wrap-up

Ideas:
✓ Rather than ask a question and wait for one student to answer...
  • ask all students to type an answer
✓ Rather than ask “Are there any questions?”...
  • ask all students to type a question

Tools: Zoom Chat, Poll Everywhere (open-ended), Slack...

Annotation
❖ Add text
❖ Draw
❖ Point
❖ Circle

How
.Tasks:
• Zoom Annotation
• Shared whiteboard apps: Google Jamboard or Microsoft Whiteboard
• Shared slides: Google Slides or Microsoft SharePoint

Where would you go to begin your research at the library?

Tools:
• Zoom Annotation

Add text
Draw
Point
Circle
Draw or write your response to the prompts below.

If I were an animal, I would be a __________

My favorite season is __________

Tip 2: Discussions

Start the Discussion in Canvas

- Help the discussion flow better in class by having students begin the discussion on Canvas in a discussion board
- Can give students more time to reflect and compose a response
- Can give you a launching point for your in-class discussion

Balanced Participation

- Think, pair, share approaches
- Chance for students to share ideas and report back out
- Have structure report-out opportunities
- Assign roles, such as note takers or presenters
- Have students use shared Google docs or slides for reporting out (and can double as assessment)

Gives everyone a chance to participate without being put on the spot!

Discussion Responses in Chat or via Polls

- Give students the opportunity to respond to discussions in different ways
- Can be a way to hear from more students and manage discussions, especially in larger classes or with quieter groups

Student Led Discussions

- Keep students engaged by having them lead discussions
- Assign individuals or groups to lead discussion for a class
- Students can submit questions in advance for their peer to consider
Create Groups

- Assign students into cohort groups
- Cohort groups can foster community and engagement
- Can be a space for discussion and collaboration
- Can be a way to foster discussion in the class as students feel comfortable in their groups

Leads us to Tip 3: Group Work!

How to make group work WORK

1: Provide Structure

What should they be doing in their group?
- Provide specific instructions
- If they will be in their group for a while, consider providing a time frame
- What tool are they using
- What is the output expectation?
  - Notes
  - Report out
  - Expertise to facilitate a different group

2. Assign Roles

- Facilitator
- Recorder
- Reporter
- Rotate roles week to week!

3. Use Shared Workspaces

- Google Apps
  - Google Slides
    - Pre-Populated with directions
  - Google Docs
    - Outline of questions
    - Bank for brainstorming
  - O365 Suite
    - Shared Excel files
    - Shared Whiteboard
    - Miro (Account Based)

4. Check In

- Monitor shared slides/docs
- Let groups know when you will be checking in
  - Entering their breakout room
  - Stopping by their group in the classroom
- Utilize TAs to help with this when able
Activity Ideas

Small group discussion:
• Brainstorm
  • Use a shared document or slide deck to capture their thoughts, e.g. Google docs/slides; Miro; O365 etc.
• Jigsaw activity
  • First meet as the “expert” group
  • Then meet as “mixed” group – each person is not the expert on their topic in their group
• Case study
• Analyze data

Scaffold Projects
• Research paper/project
• Website development
• eBook

Group worksheet or guided activity
• Finding sources for a project
• Evaluating online media
• Completing a lab worksheet

Games or polls
• Team trivia game
• Poll the class and show the results - then have small groups discuss their answers
  • The group could be tasked with choosing one answer to resubmit
• Simulations (business, econ, etc.)

Shared Workspaces
• Add the shared link(s) to your Canvas Site
• Keep the links(s) with that week’s content
Questions or Comments?

What's Next:
• This and the other sessions from today will be posted on the CFDE site:
  • Programs And Events/Online Teaching and Learning Programs
• I'll post this as a pdf with this recording
• If you have ideas for additional sections this semester, please type them in the chat before you leave!

Thank You, and have a great semester!