Enhancing Professional Development Classes with Active Learning Pedagogy

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Goals for this Session

- Define Active Learning Pedagogy
- Provide Activities to Consider Integrating
- Discuss Assessment with Active Learning
Let’s Brainstorm...

- What are your primary responsibilities at work?
- What do you hope to learn from this session?
- What are topics you teach/facilitate with groups of students?
Gallery Walk

• What was it like to walk along and read other peoples comments?
• How did it feel when you saw other’s reactions to your comments?
• How did this set the tone of this session?
Method of teaching that is learner centered and involves students in the learning process.

What is Active Learning?
What are you doing that is considered active learning?

**Think:** Take a moment and make a list of the activities you are already doing that employ these characteristics:

- Relevant
- Learner centered
- Participatory
- Reflective
- Intentional
**Pair up:** discuss with your partner the activities you use.

- How do you see these activities promote what you’re teaching?
- How does this reflect on your style as an educator?

Share one thought with the large group.
Why Use Active Learning Techniques?

- Research studies have shown that when instructors switch their teaching style students learn more (based on test scores)
- Effective use of time in class
- Reinforces concepts that are learned rather than studied
- More fun teaching
Retention of Learning

- Receiving: <20%
  - Audiovisual
    - Reading
    - Lecture
- Participating: 20% - 75%
  - Audiovisual
    - Reading
    - Lecture
  - Play
    - Exercises
    - Discussion
    - Demonstration
- Learning by Doing: >75%
  - To work with a coach
    - Immediate practicing

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Concrete Experience
(designing / having an experience)

Active Experimentation
(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation
(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)

Abstract Conceptualisation
(concluding / learning from the experience)
When Can You Use Active Learning Techniques?

• The traditional classroom
• Job search preparation sessions
• Workshops
• Reflection/debrief sessions
• Student organization presentations and trainings
Other Activities

Activities

• Drawing
• Role Playing and Debates
• Peer Review
• Game Activities (Jeopardy)
• Fish Bowl

Activities for assessment

• Minute paper (Clearest and Muddiest Point; daily journal prompts etc.)
• Internet - Poll Everywhere etc.
Considerations

• Physical classroom size, shape, set-up, and furniture
• While the work in-class is more done by the learners, there can be more prep involved for the instructor
• Access to supplies, copies, AV considerations
• Participants - how many? Their comfort level with each other?
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