Using Active Learning

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What is Active Learning?

Think of a time you were actively learning as a student.

What made it active?
It requires students to think and to work with the information.

1) Students are engaged in meaningful learning, usually in class

2) It’s contrasted with one-directional receiving of information from instructor (i.e., listening to a lecture)
Active learning can involve many different student behaviors.

- Taking ‘synthesis’ notes
- Discussion
- Voting
- Team-based work, cooperative work
- Problem-solving
- Demonstrating
- Presenting
Retention: Cast your vote!

Immediately after a lecture, what percentage of the first 10 minutes of the lecture did the students remember?

A) 70%  
B) 50%  
C) 20%  

Retention: The results

Immediately after a lecture, what percentage of the first 10 minutes of the lecture did the students remember?

A) 70%
B) 50%
C) 20%

Cast your vote again

What percentage of the last ten minutes of the lecture was remembered?

A) 70%
B) 50%
C) 20%

The news isn’t so good….

What percentage of the last ten minutes was remembered?

A) 70%
B) 50%
C) 20%

Punctuated lectures increase students’ retention of knowledge.
What would work in your class?

1. On your own, review the “Active Learning Strategies” handout.

2. Explain to a partner:
   - What would work in your classroom?
   - What would **not** work -- and why?

3. Be ready to share with the class.
To sum up, active learning:

- Increases student engagement
- Is meaningful = tied to learning objectives
- Increases knowledge retention (learning by doing)
- Provides variation
Resources

• 20 Ways to Make a Lecture More Participatory
• Before, During, After Lecture: What to Do
• Team-Based Learning
• Links to articles and ideas for the Large Class
• Video: The Twitter Experiment
• Schreyer Institute’s website