“Active Learning. Active life.”
- the tagline for Dixie State University

Consider the phrase “Active Learning”.

● What does it look like when students are “actively learning”?

● What does it look like when students are not “actively learning”?

Go to joinpd.com and type in your response to the following questions.
Part 1

What is “Active Learning”?
This is a trick question

Which student is actively learning?

Answer the question in Pear Deck multiple choice.

A) Student listening to a lecture
B) Student reading a chapter from a textbook
C) Student writing a report
D) Student creating a 3D model for a project
E) Student practicing an instrument
F) Student taking a quiz
G) All *could* be examples of active learning
Active Learning Common Misunderstandings

- You *can* be actively listening and learning.
- You *can* be actively reading and learning.
- And of course you can be actively creating, doing, practicing and writing and be learning.

So what is the difference between actively listening vs passively listening?
Active Learning is Not...

Active learning stands in contrast to "traditional" modes of instruction in which students are passive recipients of knowledge from an expert.

Non examples of active learning:
- simply listening to a lecture
- watching a video
- reading a textbook
- reading PowerPoint presentation

Go to: joinpd.com
Use the class code posted in the chat
Definition of Active Learning:

The Center for Teaching and Learning defines active learning this way:

"Active learning is an instructional method that engages learners in the learning process by requiring learners to do meaningful activities and think about what they are doing as opposed to passively listening to an expert. It emphasizes higher-order and critical thinking, application of knowledge, metacognition, and often involves collaborative group work and experiential learning experiences."
Engage:

1. Occupy, attract, or involve (someone’s interest or attention).

2. Participate or become involved in.
   2.1: establish a meaningful contact or connection with.

Source: oxforddictionaries.com, 2013
What does it look like?

Dee Fink (2005), a leading author in active learning, suggested thinking about active learning as the intersection of three components:

- **doing or observing**
- **information and ideas**, and
- **reflective dialogue**.
Interact with this presentation
Go to: joinpd.com
Use the class code posted in the chat
Part 2

Challenges and Solutions
Identify needs in your own course

Which parts of your course do students tend to be less “active” and more “passive” in their learning?

Either reply via the Pear Deck text OR feel free to unmute yourself and tell us.
What does Active Learning look like?

Make your course content and activities meaningful and authentic (careers and lives)

Provide a variety of ways for your students to interact with the content (read, talk, write, listen, watch, present)

Create opportunities for students to collaborate with peers and professionals

Give your students a variety of ways to have voice (technology)

Use graphic organizers and reflection journals

Be intentional about your time and goals (alignment and learning outcomes)

Click on this to see active Learning Resources Shared Folder
Workshop: Ideas, solutions & tools

- Break up into groups
- Use the provided resources
- Talk about and share your specific challenges and share at least one new active learning idea you want to try.
- Come back to the whole group and share what your team discussed

Active Learning Resources Shared Folder
Benefits of Active Learning

- Higher test scores and retention
- Improved problem-solving skills
- Better writing
- Improved attitudes
- Engages multiple learning styles
- Provides opportunities for immediate feedback from self, peers, and instructor
- Empowers students to take responsibility for their learning.
- Reinforces important material, concepts, and skills.
- Provides students with opportunities to think about, talk about, and process course material.
- Creates personal connections to the material for students, which increases their motivation to learn.
- Allows students to practice important skills.
- Creates a sense of community in the classroom through increased student-student and instructor-student interaction.
How helpful was this session for you?
Active Learning Strategies for Online Courses

Opportunities for students to take an active role in online learning

**Experiential**
- Arrange for students to experience applications of theories and concepts first hand in authentic contexts.
  - Examples: Volunteering, internships, portfolios, site visits, museums

**Inquiry**
- Use an investigative process including questions, hypotheses, observations, and conclusions to discover concepts.
  - Examples: Webquests, enduring questions, complex/unscripted problems

**Reciprocal**
- Delegate students to take responsibility for instruction and become the teacher for a small group or partner.
  - Examples: Jigsaw discussion, slideshow, screen share, peer coaching

**Simulation**
- Design simulated experiences that allow students to participate in situations unavailable to them in the real world.
  - Examples: Games, role play, scenarios, debate, VR, online tours

**Case Study**
- Incorporate real-life stories that illustrate a concept to prompt students to integrate their learning with the real world.
  - Examples: Historical/current events, legal cases, documentaries

**Interview**
- Assign students to conduct interviews with individuals or organizations that work in the field they are learning about.
  - Examples: Interviews, observations, job shadow, surveys

**Project**
- Apply learning to a project that requires synthesis of information and skills, collaboration with peers, and creative media components.
  - Examples: Brochures, commercials, videos, charts, infographics

**Experiment**
- Challenge students to put course content to the test through experimental design and reporting the results.
  - Examples: Home experiments, research studies, applied practice

**Reflection**
- Engage students in metacognitive practices to capture learning and publish their insights to an online audience.
  - Examples: Journals, curating, social media, blogs, vlogs

**Get Active**
Active courses drive active students. How will you energize your course?
Description

What:
- Active learning (online learning)
  - Definition/common misunderstandings
  - Challenges and examples
  - Solutions and examples

Why: (identify specific strategies for…)
- Improve and enhance the learning experience for our students
- Feel like you are making a more positive impact on students (feel more effective)
- Collaborate and workshop with peers (discussing problems and solutions)

This presentation on active learning will help you improve and enhance the learning experience of your students and assist you at becoming a more effective and engaging (online) instructor. During this presentation you will collaborate and workshop with fellow peers to identify active learning strategies and examples, common misunderstandings, challenges, and solutions.

Resources and Content

Active Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning defines active learning this way:
"Active learning is an instructional method that engages learners in the learning process by requiring learners to do meaningful activities and think about what they are doing as opposed to passively listening to an expert. It emphasizes higher-order and critical thinking, application of knowledge, metacognition, and often involves collaborative group work and experiential learning experiences."

Online courses designed by our department should incorporate active learning approaches and techniques. Technological features such as simulations, drills, and quests will promote the student-controlled activities that support active learning, while forums, wikis and blogs create an environment for collaborative learning. Group work, Interactions among students to build knowledge and Reflective activities such as journals and blogs are great examples of active learning.

Metacognitive elements such as journals and blogs will be integrated into the learning process so students can reflect on their progress and acquisition of skills and knowledge. Every course
will include a group activity: students will be actively guided through these collaborations by their professors and use state-of-the-art tools to participate in them effectively.

Engage: Occupy, attract, or involve (someone’s interest or attention).

Engage: Participate or become involved in.

Potential challenges of Active Learning for ONLINE

- Textbook chapter reading
- PowerPoint Slides
- Video Lectures
- When you ask questions… “crickets” or the same two kids always commenting. (face to face)
- Discussion (all comments are the same and the conversation isn’t organic or really not meaningful)
- There are just some people who don’t want to talk or share.

Solutions: Examples and Ideas

- Giving more students an opportunity to speak up (give them a platform… maybe anonymous maybe not?)
- Multiple options (different tools, different options for students to choose from, that allow students to be engaged with their own learning style) HOW MUCH IS TOO MUCH?
- KWL (discussion) as an option

Presentation Structure

Maybe collect information.

1. Collect ideas and challenges from the audience up-front
2. Require audience to do something throughout the presentation (or use a specific technology like PearDeck or Desmos to promote higher engagement anonymous comments might promote engagement)
How can we demonstrate “Active Learning” in this presentation?
Active Learning Online
Creating and Applying Active Learning in Online Courses

What is active learning and why does it matter?

Research shows “students learn more and retain their learning longer if they acquire it in an active rather than a passive manner” (Fink, 2005). In other words stated in the following video, What is Active Learning, “Active learning equals better learning.” As you watch the video, note any ideas you glean to enhance active learning in the online courses you teach . . .

What is Active Learning? - 4:12

As teachers, we are on the front lines working to make "active learning” more than just part of a tagline at DSU–rather, an integral part of every course at DSU, including online courses. As you review your course each semester and look for opportunities to improve the learning experience for your students, consider the effectiveness of each learning activity in helping students achieve the course objectives. Which activities could you modify to be more authentic and to more actively engage students in the learning process?

Active Learning is…

Active learning is an approach to instruction in which learners are asked to be actively engaged and involved in the learning process. Active learning can take many forms and be executed in any discipline. Commonly, instructors take on the role of the facilitator instead of the expert (i.e., the "guide on the side" instead of the "sage on the stage"); and learners will take increasing responsibility for their own learning by engaging in small or large activities centered around writing, discussing, solving problems, or reflecting.

Active learning is also not limited to the traditional classroom. Active learning can also be applied in the online classroom.

You may have come across active learning through the Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education.

Chickering and Gamson noted that learners "must talk about what they are learning, write about it, relate it to past experiences, apply it to their daily lives. They must make what they learn part of themselves" (p. 4).
Bottom line: active learning is "anything that involves students in doing things and thinking about the things they are doing" (Bonwell and Eison, 1991)—anything "other than simply watching, listening, and taking notes" (Felder and Brent, 2009).

Active Learning is Not…

Active learning stands in contrast to "traditional" modes of instruction in which students are passive recipients of knowledge from an expert. In other words, simply listening to a lecture, watching a video, reading a textbook or PowerPoint presentation would NOT be considered active learning.

When learners sit and passively watch or listen to lectures—whether in person or on video—they are not actively engaging with the content. If you think about the difference between your engagement with a topic when you are simply listening to someone report on the topic at a committee meeting versus when you are actively debating the topic with colleagues, you can see the difference.

Components of Active Learning

Dee Fink (2005), a leading author in active learning, suggested thinking about active learning as the intersection of three components:

- doing or observing (what Fink calls a "rich learning experience"),
- information and ideas,
- reflective dialogue.

Benefits of Active Learning

As noted above, research indicates that active learning methods are especially effective for student learning. Cornell University's Center for Teaching Innovation highlighted these specific benefits of active learning:

- Reinforces important material, concepts, and skills.
- Provides more frequent and immediate feedback to students.
- Provides students with an opportunity to think about, talk about, and process course material.
- Creates personal connections to the material for students, which increases their motivation to learn.
- Allows students to practice important skills, such as collaboration, through pair and group work.
- Builds self-esteem through conversations with other students.
- Creates a sense of community in the classroom through increased student-student and instructor-student interaction.
Well-designed learning activities promote active student participation. When students are actively involved, not only will their motivation increase, but also they will learn and retain more, be more satisfied and more successful (Freeman, et al., 2014).

**Example of Active Learning**

An example of active learning from a Spanish class might be having students explore a local Hispanic market, observing the types of food and how it is organized, reflecting on the differences and similarities to a standard American grocery store, and connecting their reflections to course concepts about culture and its influence on shopping, cooking, and eating. In an online class, the students could share pictures or video of their exploration and their reflection with the class through a discussion forum where they can compare and contrast their experiences with those of their classmates.

**Categories of Online Active Learning**

There are three primary categories of online active learning: individual, cooperative, and collaborative.

1. **Individual learning** involves activities where the learner applies course content that is read (either online or other course materials) through writing, diagrams or concept mapping.
2. **Cooperative learning** can be defined as a structured form of group work where learners pursue common goals while being assessed individually. Examples include discussion forums where learners respond and engage with fellow classmates and peer review projects. Carleton College has created a useful resource on cooperative learning (Links to an external site.)
3. **Collaborative learning** refers to any instructional method in which learners work together in small groups toward a common goal. Examples of collaborative learning activities are case studies, debates in teams using discussion forums, reports or essays that are created collectively then evaluated as a group.

Utilize a variety of active learning types to incorporate a variety of learning activities with which students with various learning styles can connect.

**What Does Active Learning Look Like?**

The University of Michigan Center for Learning and Teaching has organized the following active learning resource that provides some great examples of active learning and organizes active learning strategies along a continuum: [Active Learning Continuum & Strategies (Links to an external site.)](#)

A similar resource has been organized for use here at DSU. Click the infographic below to enlarge, then click to download it and see more strategies for active learning online.
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Additional Resources