

Teaching and Learning Seminar Series Summer 2018

Strategies for making lectures more active and engaging

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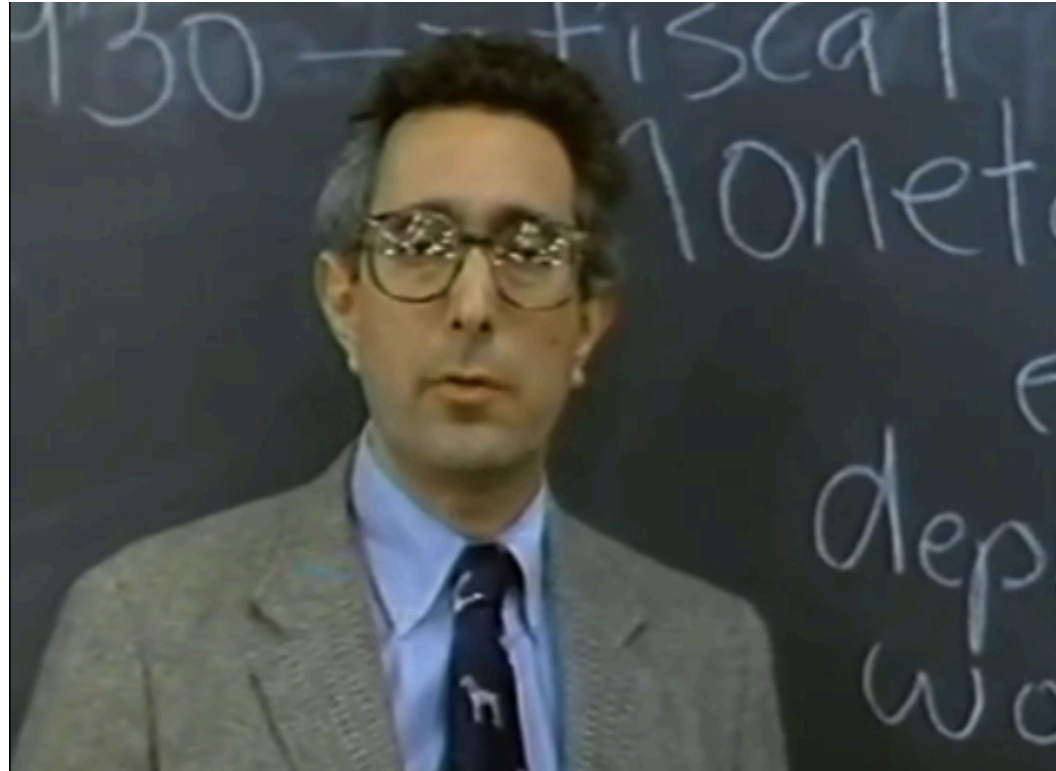


Learning objectives

- To understand the value of active learning.
- To learn some non-tech active learning strategies.
- To learn some low-tech active learning strategies.
- To implement at least one new active learning strategy in your teaching.



"Ferris Bueller's Day Off" 1986



Ben Stein as Uber Dork economics teacher

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uhiCFdWeQfA>

Activity

Why were students not engaged in this video?

Activity

How do you promote active learning in your lecture?

Non-tech active learning techniques

1. Physical movement

- Don't stand at/behind podium
- Walk around in the classroom



Non-tech active learning techniques

2. Pause and chunk (Ruhl et al., 1987; Di Vesta & Smith, 1979, cited in Prince 2004)

- Divide class into intervals
- Mini learning activities during transitional breaks
- Tip: Blank slide



Non-tech active learning techniques

3. Effective questioning

- Ask higher level question
- Give “wait time” (Elliot, 1996; Mills, 1995)
- Engage students in the back



Non-tech active learning techniques

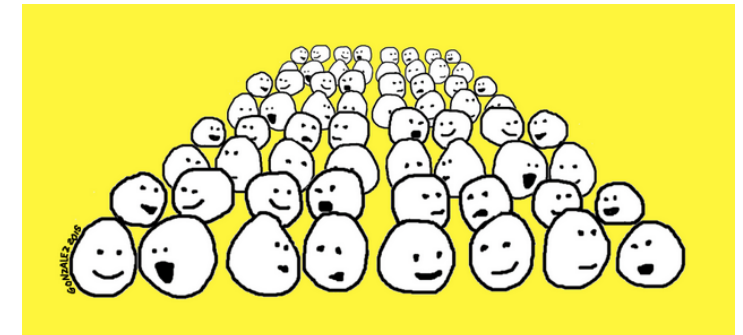
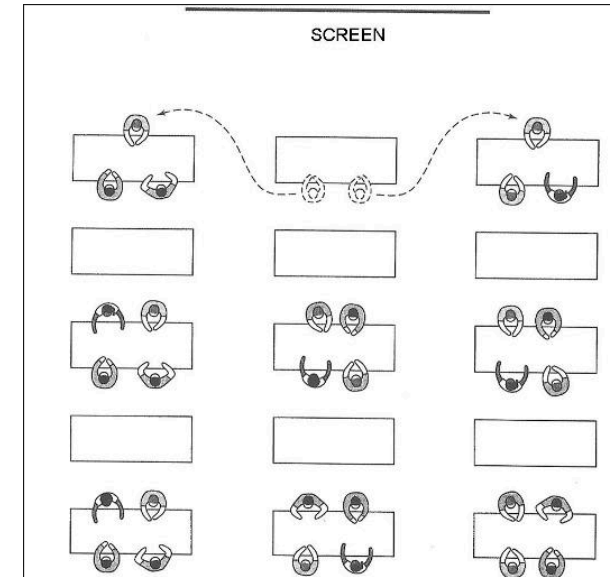
3. Effective questioning (continued)

- Ask follow-up questions
 - Could you tell me more about....?
 - Could you give me an example of...?
 - What made you think so?
 - How do you know that?
 - What if...?
- Ask students to comment on peer's response

Non-tech active learning techniques

4. Collaborative activities

- Think-pair-share (Angelo and Cross, 1993)
- Think-write-pair-share
- Snowball group
- Buzz group



Non-tech active learning techniques

5. Writing in class

- 3-2-1; one-minute paper; exit ticket



Low-tech active learning strategies

1. Polling

- Activity: Polleverywhere
 - Word cloud question
 - Image-based question
 - Hot spot question



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Low-tech active learning strategies

2. Gameplay

- Activity: <http://jeopardylabs.com/>

Reflection

Post on: <https://padlet.com/szheng/activelearning>

- 3 most important take aways.
- 2 ideas of application.
- 1 more thing you want to learn about this topic (or 1 more question you still have).

What active learning strategies have we used today?

- Pause and chunk (transitional break)
- Checking in with students
- Questioning
- Discussion (think-pair-share)
- Polling
- Gameplay
- Reflective writing (3-2-1 strategy)



Recommended resources

- Teaching and Learning Seminar Series Canvas Site
- Professor Eric Mazur, Harvard University: https://youtu.be/wont2v_LZ1E?t=43s
(Poll- discussion-poll strategy)
- University of California, Berkeley: <https://teaching.berkeley.edu/active-learning-strategies>
- Yale University: <https://ctl.yale.edu/ActiveLearning>
- Vanderbilt University: <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/teaching-large-classes/>
- University of Minnesota:
<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/powerpoint/learning/index.html>
- Cal State University, LA: <http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/chem/chem2/Active/index.htm>
- Cornell University: <https://www.cte.cornell.edu/teaching-ideas/large-lectures/teaching-and-learning-in-largelectures.html>

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