

Active Learning

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Introductions



- Who are you?
- Why did you come today? What do you hope to learn?

Think- Pair- Share

- What is “active learning”
 - Think- write
 - Pair- discuss
 - Share-

Active Learning Strategy #1 - Think-Pair-Share



- You just engaged in your first Active Learning Strategy
- STEPS for Think-Pair-Share
 - Prompt a topic/issue/challenge
 - Have participant think and then jot down notes
 - Then in pairs- share and discuss
 - Share back to larger group

Agenda

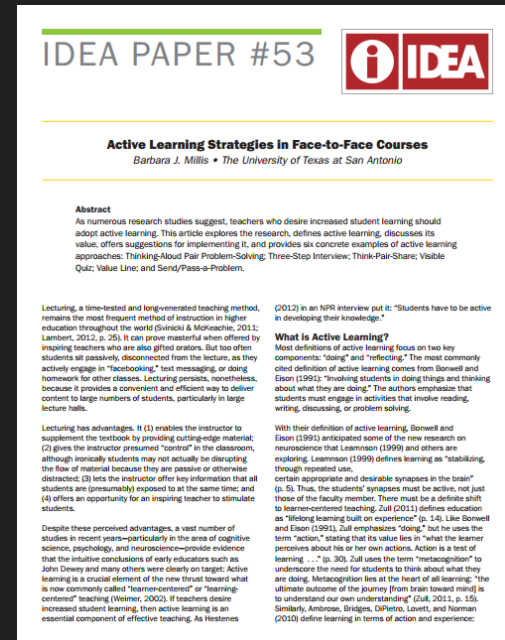
- Welcome and Introductions
 - Think-Pair-Share #1
- Agenda and Learning Outcomes
 - Jigsaw #2
- What is A.L. and how it relates to learning
 - Value of A.L.
 - 4 Corners #3
- Benefits and Challenges of AL
 - AL in Large Classrooms
 - Debates #4
 - Value Line #5
- Simulations and Case Studies #6 & #7
- Take-aways, one-minute papers, muddiest points # 8, #9, # 10
 - Wrap-up and Debrief

Learning Outcomes- Participants will be able to:

1. Define and describe active learning and how it relates to constructivist learning
2. Outline the benefits and challenges of active learning
3. Outline challenges and ways to address the challenges of active learning in a large class
4. List and describe the steps of a range of active learning strategies.
5. Engage in a range of active strategies
6. Reflect on using active strategies to enhance learning and engagement
7. Outline tips for implementing active learning strategies

Active Learning Strategy #2- Jigsaw

- Divide into groups and we will divide up the following article
- Read the section of the article that you were assigned
- Discuss it with partner
- Highlight/Summarize on chart paper
- Share back when asked



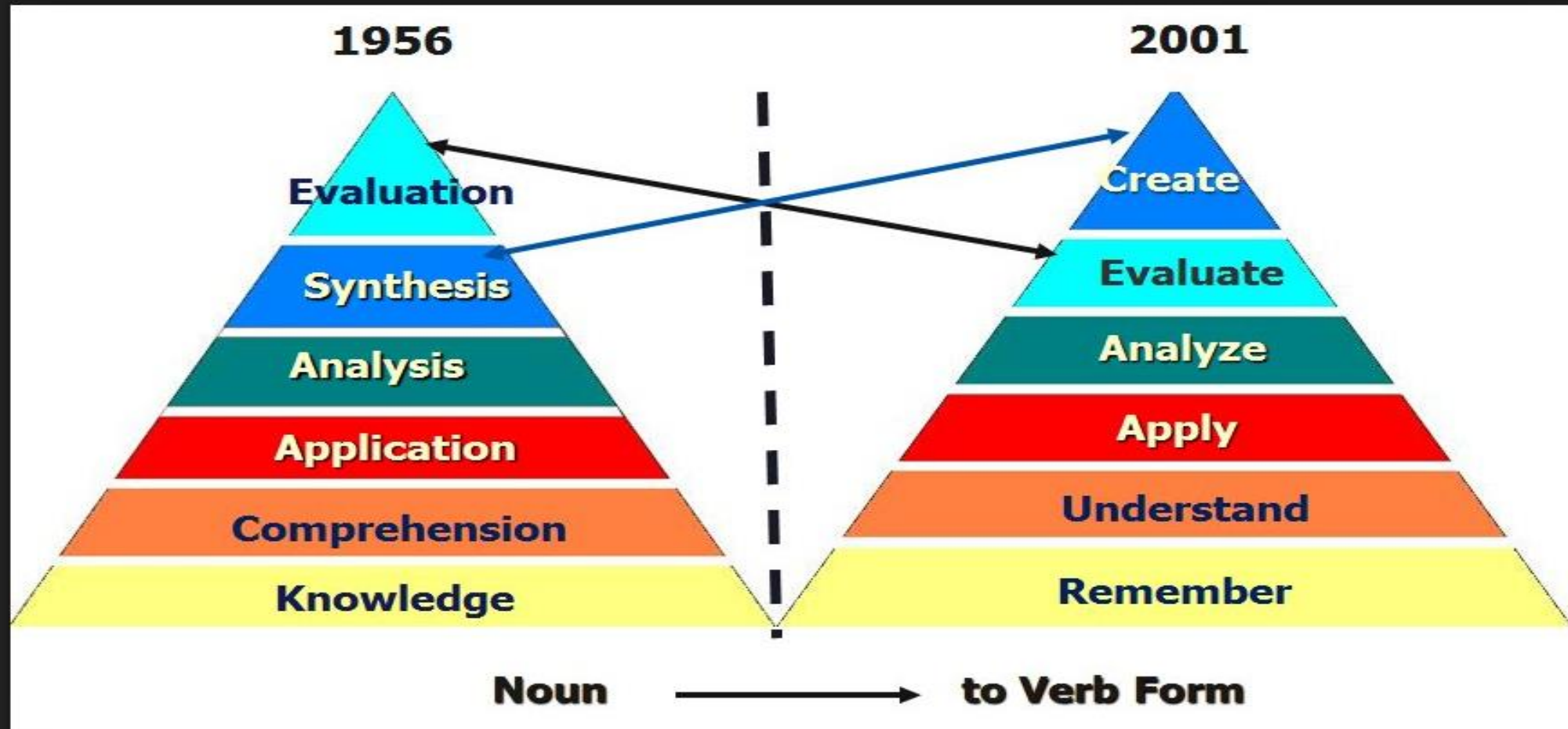
What is Active Learning?

In practice, active learning refers to activities that are introduced into the classroom. The core elements of active learning are student activity and engagement in the learning process. Active learning is often contrasted to the traditional lecture where students passively receive information from the instructor (p. 1).

Constructivism, Authentic and Active Learning

- **Constructivism**- Students “construct” their own understandings/meaning by linking their prior knowledge and past experiences with new knowledge and experiences.- Vygotsky
- **Active learning** - students engage in activities that promote analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of class content. Students actively “do” and then “reflect” on the learning making them a partner in the learning process- “learner-centered”
- **Authentic learning**- using “real life”, practical, relevant activities and assessing those experiences

Bloom's Revised Taxonomy of Higher Level Learning



Value of Active Learning



Active Learning Strategies



Reflecting on what we just did using Jigsaw

- Divided up a “reading” assignment for “efficiency sake”
- Each person became an “expert” in one focused area
- Shared the wealth by teaching others
- Instructor didn’t “transmit knowledge”- participants took ownership of learning

Other ways to use Jigsaw

- Group assignments- divide up components/content
- Presentations- divide up sections

Key elements of Jigsaw

- Student ownership of learning
- Become “expert” in small area
- Check knowledge/understanding by discussing it with other in group
- Teach others
- Whole group learns overall content, while each becomes “expert” in small aspect

Strategy #3- 4- Corners

Steps to 4- Corners

- Prior to session- create questions/issues/etc on chart paper and post around room
- count off group by 4s (or in small group would have to do it with less corners/less in a group)
- Each group have a different color marker
- Have each group respond to chart paper questions for a set time (1 minute) with different color marker
- Move to next group (with the colored marker)
- Complete each of the 4 questions/responses
- Reach back all chart papers
- Discuss and reflect

4-Corners

- What are the benefits of active learning?
- What are the challenges of active learning?
- What are the challenges to doing “active learning” in a large class?
- How can you facilitate “active learning” in a large class?

What are the benefits of active learning?



What are the challenges of active learning?



What are the challenges of Active Learning in a Large Class?

What are the challenges to doing “active learning” in a large class?

- Space and Time
- Noise and Movement
- Getting everyone involved

Active Learning in a Large Class

- Rather than moving around room- just have discussion with partner or group close by
- When sharing back or debriefing, simply select a few groups to reflect back comments

Debrief about what we just did

- Ownership of learning
- Shared learning
- Engaged learning
- Interactive
- Active
- Not lecture

Active Learning Strategy #4- Debate

○ STEPS for Debate

1. Divide group in 2
2. Present debate topic
3. Have each group come up with 3 points for pro and 3 points for con- give time for group to plan their points- identify- 3 speakers each
4. Engage in debate
 1. Pro point 1- with rebuttle from anyone on con side
 2. Con point 1- rebuttle from anyone on pro side
 3. Continue until all three points are made
5. Break off back into groups for creating closing comments
6. Each side present closing comments

Debate-

- Debate: Be it resolved that “active learning” is a productive, meaningful teaching tool to use in university classrooms

Revisiting Debate topic throughout semester

- Try conducting a debate on an issue at the beginning of the semester (as novice learner to the topic) and then repeating it again at the end of the semester to see how their, knowledge, skills and dispositions have changed over time.

Active Learning Strategy #5- Value Line

○ STEPS

- On controversial or opinion issues, have participants stand in a line (or on different sides of the room) based on their position.
- Have them discuss or provide rationale for why they have selected their place

Active Learning Strategy #6 and #7

Case Study and Simulations



- Have participants read or view a case study or simulation
- Provide prompts of activities based on situation

Active Learning #8, 9, & 10

Take-aways , One Minute Papers & Muddiest Points

One minute paper

What I learned Today (WILT)

Please take a minute to respond to the following questions:

1. Here's what I learned in today's lecture:
2. Here are some questions I still have:
3. Here are some things I don't even understand well enough to ask about:
4. Other comments or suggestions:

Steps-

1. "Take-aways" and "one-minute-papers"- At end of session, discuss of have them jot down "what is your take-away from this session"
 - a. can be anonymous or can sign and turn in for "participation marks
 - b. helps them reflect on the major themes/concepts of session
2. Muddiest points- have them jot down what they still don't "get" or are confused with or "what they are intellectually challenged with from this session" and they would like to explore further allows you to collect, read and get feedback on what you may need to revisit or re-explain

Tips for Active Learning

- Ensure that active learning activities relate to your content/learning outcomes. They are to engage in the learning experience; not to just be fun or pass the time.
- Balance time. They do take time, be careful with your time management
- Plan ahead. Active learning requires the professor to spend their time setting up and structuring the experiences (i.e. access to articles, setting up the learning environment, having the materials, etc.)
- Works very well in flipped classrooms where you have them read or review content on line and then do active learning activities in class.
- Professor must be willing to “let go” and not have full “control” of what is covered, but must be able to respond, redirect and refocus if student responses are incorrect or off task

Q&A and Discussion

- Thoughts
- Comments
- Questions

Did we:

1. Define and describe active learning and how it relates to constructivist learning
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What are your Take-aways and Muddiest Points

- On one color paper- reflect on your take-aways
- On other color- muddiest-point
- Share and reflect

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