

Learning as Interaction

What is “Learning”?



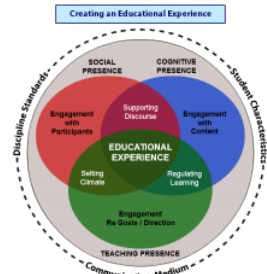
At a biological level, learning can be seen as a phenomenon that results in physical changes to brain cells and neural pathways in the brain. The goal of a good learning experience is to ease the process through which the brain encodes information and creates synaptic connections. Interactivity can increase the potential for information to be stored in long-term memory.

Considered from a learning theory perspective, learning is an act not of absorbing or collecting information. Learning is the act of building knowledge. Knowledge cannot be built passively. Considering Bloom’s Taxonomy, in order for students to exceed the “recall” stage of learning, they must engage in active processes. These active processes encode knowledge in the brain and allow students to reach higher levels of cognitive achievement.

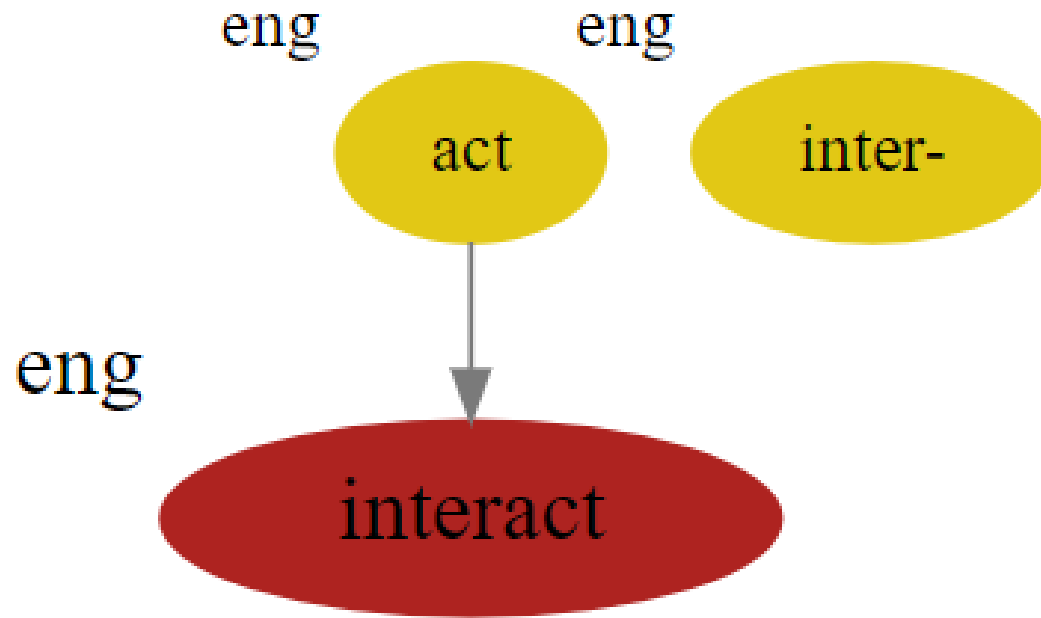
This is why interactivity is obviously essential for creating an effective learning environment.

Learning as Interaction

- The learner should be at the core of the learning experience.
- Through the process of learning, the learner will interact with the faculty, other learners, the material or content and the environment.
- Each of these types of interactions serve to enhance the learning experience and make the construction of knowledge possible.



What is “Interaction”?



What was so bad about this opening presentation?



Think



Share



Chat

Effective Large Group Presentations: Interaction in Action

Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine Grand Rounds
November 19, 2025

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Conflict of Interest

None of the presenters have any conflicts of interest to disclose.

Session Objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify the **key considerations** for giving a presentation.
- Plan an appropriate **structure** to support their presentation.
- Make **visual design decisions** to support clear messaging.
- Increase **audience engagement** in their presentations.

Three takeaways.....

- Limit your content.....
- Keep slides simple – it's about you.....
- Engage, interact, discuss.....



<https://www.instituteofhospitality.org/uk-still-hungry-for-takeaways/>

Presentation Components

Message

What do you want your audience to know, be able to do, or value?

Structure

How can you organize your presentation to maximize impact?

Visuals

How can the slides support your message?

Delivery

How can you engage your audience members in the presentation?

Message

- Know your audience.
- Limit your content!!
 - Identify concrete outcomes for your presentation.
- Respect the time limits of your session.

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<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/how-to-make-a-charcuterie-board/>



<https://blog.onekinglane.com/dinner-party-ideas/>

Structure

- Start with a hook
- Construct based on your takeaways
- Check in and interact with your audience throughout
- Summarize key take-aways

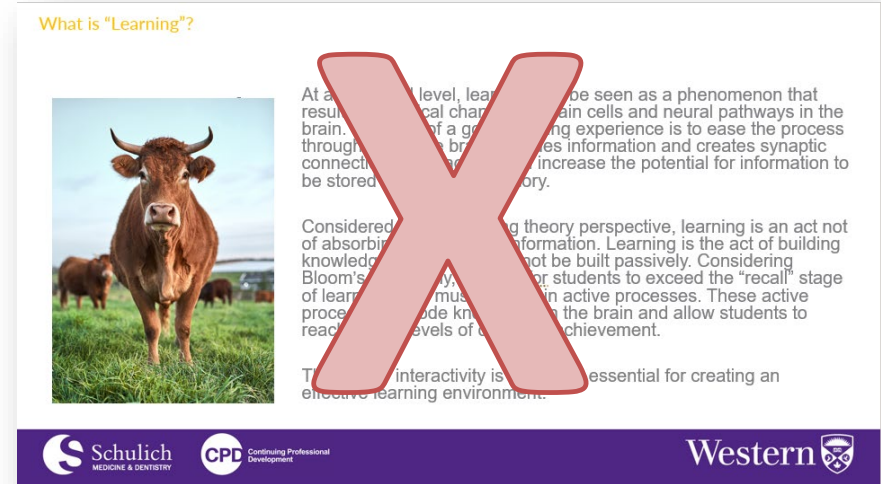
Key Take-aways

- Stay true to your message
- Follow a clear presentation structure
- Make the slides/visuals work for you
- Create opportunities for interaction
- Use stories to build authenticity and connection



Visuals

- Slides should provide key ideas
- Keep them concise and clean
 - Readability Guidelines:
 - 20 PT font
 - 1.5 spaced
- Use images deliberately to emphasis key points and add visual interest



Delivery - Presence

- Speak clearly, slowly, and with animation
- Use Pauses
- Look at your audience
- Acknowledge all audience members (in-person and online)



Strategies For Fostering Interest



Make it Real

Use illustrative examples

Tell a story

Make it Relevant

Name the stakes

Name the “every day” applications

Use figures or statistics wisely

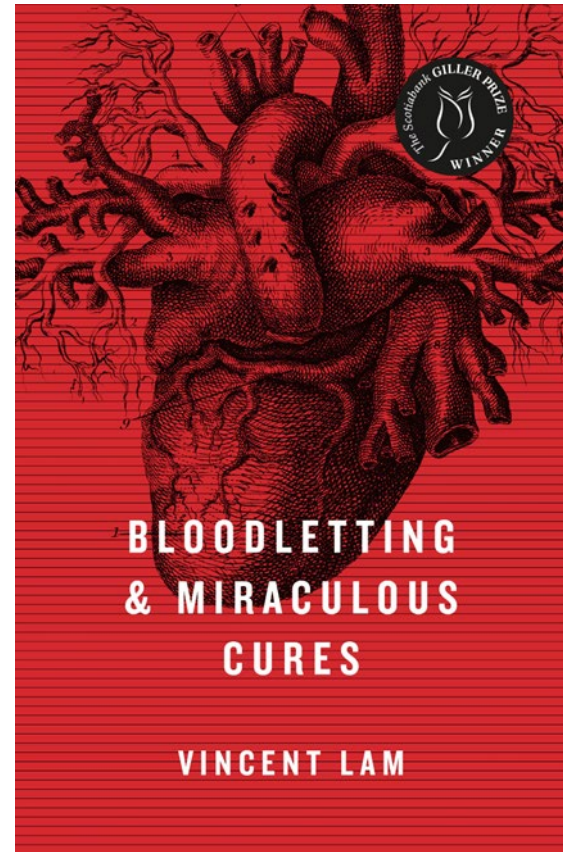
Involve the Audience

Acknowledge the audience and/or the setting

Rhetorical questions

Delivery

- Telling Stories



What do you like about interaction? What do you not like about interaction?



Pair



Share

Delivery - Interaction

- Opportunities for Reflection
- Ask Questions
- Foster Conversation
- Tell Stories
- High-tech interactions
(e.g. audience response tools)



Delivery - Disruption

- Familiarize yourself with the space before your presentation
- Plan for technological failures
- Learn to laugh when things go awry



The Bad

What is "Learning"?



At a biological level, learning can be seen as a phenomenon that results in physical change in the brain. The goal of a good learning environment is to provide a path through which the brain can form new connections. Interactivity is a key factor in this process, as it allows knowledge to be stored in long-term memory.

Considered from a learning perspective, learning is the process of absorbing or collecting knowledge. Knowledge is not static; it is dynamic and changes as we learn. In Bloom's Taxonomy, the highest level of learning is evaluation, which requires the learner to make judgments about the value of the knowledge they have acquired.

This is why interactivity is an effective learning environment.

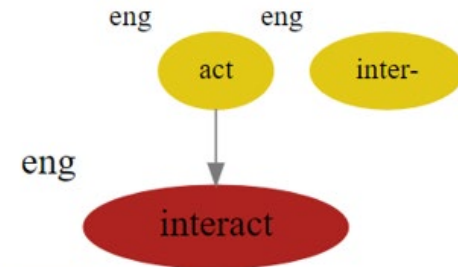


Learning as Interaction

- The learner should be at the core of the learning experience.
- Through the process of learning, the learner will interact with the factors that influence learning, the material or content, the environment.
- Each of these types of interaction is designed to enhance the learning experience and make the construction of knowledge possible.

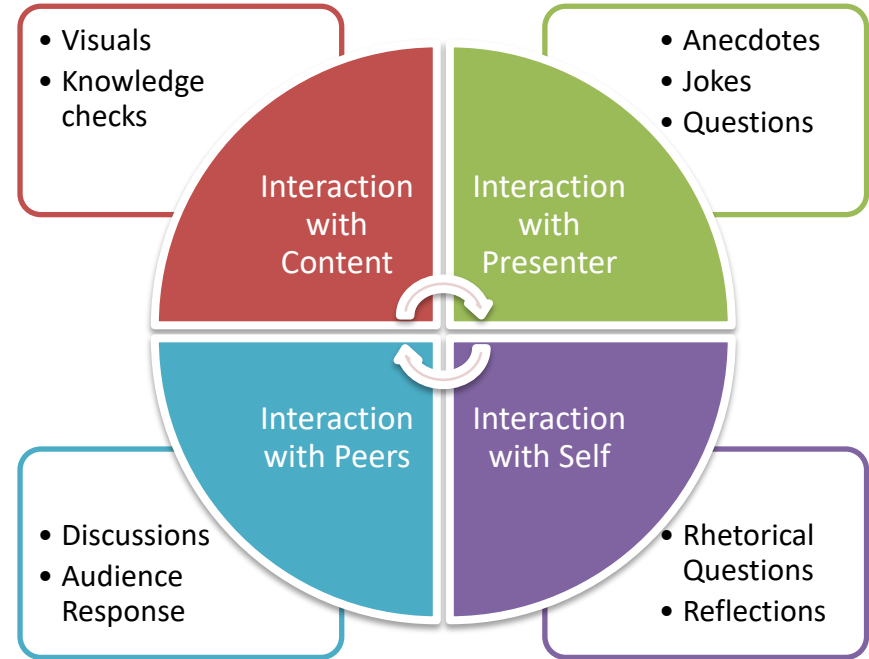


What is "Interaction"?



Learning as Interaction

- Knowledge is constructed through interaction
- Create opportunities for different types of active engagement



Three takeaways.....

- Limit your content.....
- Keep slides simple – it's about you.....
- Engage, interact, discuss.....



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How did our presentation model the tips we've discussed?



Think



Share



Chat

What could we have done better to make this clear, engaging and impactful?



Think



Share



Chat

Thank you!



<https://www.spendwithpennies.com/how-to-make-a-charcuterie-board/>



<https://blog.onekinglane.com/dinner-party-ideas/>

References

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