How Do I Incorporate Active Learning In The Classroom?

Overall: Most teachers want to deliver content and expert knowledge in order to "remain in control" in class. Consider relinquishing some control and have students "actively learn" by doing something in the classroom other than watching and listening. Students can learn from each other.

- Design your classroom teaching in chunks. Intersperse straight "lecturing" with several periods of, say ~10 minutes for an (inter)active experience. Start cautiously to build **your** confidence that it works!
- Some Active Learning examples:

1. On a slide present an abbreviated (one paragraph) case and one question. Have the students (in groups, rows, or the whole class) consider the question but indicate beforehand that you will ask for only 2 responses / solutions. When the time comes, **point to groups, rows or individuals**. Make sure the question and the answer are related to your "BIG IDEA" or take-home message – see sheet #2. A variation of this technique is **peer instruction**;

2. Do the same approach with a **pre-class reading** – a case, an abstract, a problem. Use the in-class active learning time to get a conclusion as above. **Don't** go over the pre-class reading. This encourages students to take pre-class exercises seriously;

3. After a period of 10-15 minutes straight lecturing (especially on a difficult concept), challenge groups, rows or the whole class to come up with a "two sentence" or a "20 word" summary. **Point** to get responses. If you are in a VC session, remember the distant site!;

4. Challenge groups, rows or the class to come up with multiple choice questions on the material you have just covered. This could be also left to the end of class for e-mailed responses to you. Give prizes! Use the questions in your exam!

5. Do a **think-pair-share** exercise around "my biggest unanswered question". Ask the class to take 1 minute to write down their question. Then pair with a neighbour and share it, the goal being to clarify / confirm the area of misunderstanding. Have the students deposit these questions in a "Question Box". Go through these and select some to discuss in class or online.

6. Devise your own **Active Learning** experience!

Please address any comments, questions or requests for support to:

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