Enhancing Professional Development Classes with Active Learning Pedagogy

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Goals for this Session

- Define Active Learning Pedagogy
- Provide Activities to Consider Integrating
- Discuss Assessment with Active Learning
Let’s Brainstorm...

- What are your primary responsibilities at work?
- What do you hope to learn from this session?
- What are topics you teach/facilitate with groups of students?
Gallery Walk

• What was it like to walk along and read other peoples comments?
• How did it feel when you saw other’s reactions to your comments?
• How did this set the tone of this session?
Method of teaching that is learner centered and involves students in the learning process.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THAT READING A POWERPOINT ALOUD IS NOT THE SAME AS TEACHING
Think: Take a moment and make a list of the activities you are already doing that employ these characteristics:

- Relevant
- Learner centered
- Participatory
- Reflective
- Intentional

What are you doing that is considered active learning?
**Pair up:** discuss with your partner the activities you use.

- How do you see these activities promote what you’re teaching?
- How does this reflect on your style as an educator?

Share one thought with the large group.
Why Use Active Learning Techniques?

• Research studies have shown that when instructors switch their teaching style students learn more (based on test scores)
• Effective use of time in class
• Reinforces concepts that are learned rather than studied
• More fun teaching
Concrete Experience
(doing / having an experience)

Active Experimentation
(planning / trying out what you have learned)

Reflective Observation
(reviewing / reflecting on the experience)

Abstract Conceptualisation
(concluding / learning from the experience)
When Can You Use Active Learning Techniques?

- The traditional classroom
- Job search preparation sessions
- Workshops
- Reflection/debrief sessions
- Student organization presentations and trainings
Other Activities

Activities
- Drawing
- Role Playing and Debates
- Peer Review
- Game Activities (Jeopardy)
- Fish Bowl

Activities for assessment
- Minute paper (Clearest and Muddiest Point; daily journal prompts etc.)
- Internet - Poll Everywhere etc.
Considerations

- Physical classroom size, shape, set-up, and furniture
- While the work in-class is more done by the learners, there can be more prep involved for the instructor
- Access to supplies, copies, AV considerations
- Participants - how many? Their comfort level with each other?