Active Learning Techniques

Active learning is using multiple senses to engage and learn new concepts and ideas. Studies have shown that students who use active learning techniques learn more effectively (Bonwell & Eison, 1991).

Active learning techniques commonly used in college classes include:

- Hands-on learning
  - Examples: Building projects with Legos, Lincoln Logs, physics experiments, planting trees
- Sequencing information
  - Examples: Brainstorming, word lists, placing learning items in order
- Making meaning of information
  - Examples: Tying content to students lives, experiences, family, etc…, Personal examples
- Think critically at a deeper level
  - Examples: Working in groups to find deeper meaning, question the process
- Role-play or acting out the learning
  - Examples: Acting out learning objectives, skits, mock situations
- Case Studies, using problem solving techniques
  - Examples: Small group exercises, group discussion about a case, answer questions
- Cooperative learning, by learning with others
  - Examples: Group activities, case studies, brainstorming, experiential learning
- Learning by teaching
  - Examples: Student led projects, presentations, small group projects with presentations

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