Make Technology Your Best Teaching Friend: Tools & Techniques for Online Teaching and Learning

TA Winter Institute- Jan 2023
Activity Deck

Activity 1: what is active learning?

When you hear the words "Active Learning", what is the first object that pops into mind? Why?

Activity 2: In a room, in zoom

Breakout Room #3

The Active Learning Technique:

Now, you can discuss your findings
with your new group!

Think Pair Share
Instructor poses a problem, students think/discuss this problem in pairs, then they have an opportunity for some/all pairs to share with the class

	What learner needs should you consider?	What are the benefits of using this technique?	What are potential challenges you may encounter?
In a Room	• Space to meet comfortably • Personality considerations •	• Gives students time to develop ideas before sharing • More attentive, better non-verbal communication •	• Forced public speaking
Zoom	• Personality considerations • Technology •	• Gives students time to develop ideas before sharing • Flexibility • Choice of mode of interaction • Can use collaborative spaces for idea sharing (e.g., google slides)	•

Breakout Room #2

The Active Learning Technique:

Now, you can discuss your findings
with your new group!

Class Discussion
Instructor facilitates a directed discussion with the entire class using leading questions & digger deeper into their responses

	What learner needs should you consider?	**What are the benefits of using this technique?**	**What are potential challenges you may encounter?**
In a Room	● Students may be uncomfortable speaking out loud to the whole class	● Interacting with students without technical constraints	● Can be chaotic or no one speaking up.
Zoom	● Some students may have tech issues related to economic concerns, for example outdated phones or laptops without mics and/or webcams	● Students can either unmute or type into the chat ● Students may be able to leave their cameras off if they feel uncomfortable	● Time consuming ● Technical issues

Breakout Room #3

The Active Learning Technique:

Now, you can discuss your findings with your new group!

Case Studies
Students are given a real-world problem related to the content to think and analyze the problem in groups; this can be followed up with the opportunity to present their conclusions

	What learner needs should you consider?	**What are the benefits of using this technique?**	**What are potential challenges you may encounter?**
In a Room	• *Make sure all students engage* • *Making them feel relaxed*	• *Boosting skills of public speaking*	• Lower engagement comparing Zoom
Zoom	• *Make sure all students engage by jumping in the breakout rooms*	• *Share the ideas in the chat in case they do not prefer to speak in the class*	• *More opportunity for students to search*

Breakout Room #4

The Active Learning Technique:

End of Class Summary
Groups of students summarize the main points of the lecture (and hand this in to the instructor) or alternatively small groups are assigned to summarize the previous lecture at the beginning of the next lecture

	How does it engage with student's current knowledge & motivation?	How can this method challenge learners?	What can you do to provide additional support/scaffolding for your learners when using this technique?
In a Room (In person)	• Asks students to summarize and reformulate what they have learned • Synthesize info	•	•
Zoom		•	•

Activity 3: ZPD

Instructions:

1. Find your slide that matches your room (ie. Breakout Room #: X). On that slide is an active learning technique and a brief explanation of the technique.

2. Imagine you are designing a lesson plan and you would like to incorporate that active learning technique. With your students in mind, answer the questions on the slide. You have 10 minutes for this.

Breakout Room #1

Technique: <mark>Debates</mark>
Students are given a real-world problem related to the content to think and analyze the problem in groups; this can be followed up with the opportunity to present their conclusions

How can this technique engage with the learners' previous knowledge?	How can you provide additional support/scaffolding for your learners?	How can this method challenge learners?	Is this technique applicable in a large classroom, a small classroom, or both? How? Online? in-person?
• *Linking their knowledge with other arguments* •	- *Guiding questions* - *Providing facts on the arguments from the students* - *Helpful intervention* - *Making students feel safe*	*Encourages them to think from a different perspective (if they're arguing for the position they agree with)*	*-Not applicable to both*
			In-person debates can result in people talking over others. Zoom makes this less of a risk because of unmuting?

Breakout Room #2

Technique: <mark>Role Playing</mark>
In pairs or in small groups, students are assigned roles and then act out those roles in a simulated scenario or conversation. A reflection or a discussion often follows this type of activity.

How can this technique engage with the learners' previous knowledge?	How can you provide additional support/scaffolding for your learners?	How can this method challenge learners?	Is this technique applicable in a large classroom, a small classroom, or both? How? Online? In person?
- Students bring their previous knowledge/perspective on the role - Can be used to show students application of knowledge	- Give them a role in advance - Show an example of role playing - Allow students to select role - Emphasize that it is not the "form" (e.g., quality of role playing) that is important	- Adopt different perspectives - Public speaking skills/skill development - May simulate real-life problems or consequences - Requires active listening from audience - Reflection is beneficial in evaluating learning from the activity	- Possible in large group - May not want repetitive role-playing in a large group - But likely best in-person and smaller group - Breakout room online may not encourage participation (e.g., nobody is watching)

Teaching Toolbox (Last Activity):

1. Breakout rooms in Jigsaw activity
2. Google Slides
3. Padlet
4. Jamboard
5. Annotate on Zoom