Active Student Learning: Problem-based & Inquiry-based Learning

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Why active learning?

- High rate of student engagement

- Links curriculum to practice

- More reliable transfer of learning from school setting to professional setting

- Allows students to explore without risks of "the real world"

- More fun and interesting for everyone

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Active learning strategies

- Case- or scenario-based
- Reflect realistic issues from professional practice
- Structured around a logic or reasoning model
- Collaborative
- Pratt's Apprenticeship perspective

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How it works

- Introduced and explain logic/reasoning model
- Distribute template for writing up conclusions

- Distribute "trigger" scenario and trigger question
- Identify initial resources and reference materials
- Be available to answer formative questions

- Students present their findings
- Instructor identifies learning objectives

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The Trigger

- Narrative explanation of scenario or case
- Written "to" a professional colleague (memo, letter, email)
- Trigger question should be one that applies across cases or scenarios
- Case is fictional (wholly constructed) or fictive (based on real case but anonymized)
- Case specifics scrutinized to avoid ambiguity or outlier student responses

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Active learning requires

- A lot more preparation in preparing each case
- Thorough research and review of triggers
- Creation of multiple distinct cases with common elements
- Much more time for formative assessment
- Much less time on summative assessment (convergence of findings)

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Problem-based learning

- Answering the trigger question while applying a reasoning model
- Gain experience with resources used in professional practice
- Writing up using template
- Assessed via a rubric that matches template

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Inquiry-based learning

- Trigger question is "what is the question?"
- Answer the *right* questions, rather than answer the *first* question
- Better for students with some practical experience than for novices
- Writing up question and rationale
- Mastery (pass/fail) assessment: meets all requirements or does not

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