Practical Tools: Active Learning Strategies to Improve Online Learner Engagement and Retention

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Disclosure

Kadriye O. Lewis, Ed.D

I have nothing to disclose with respect to this presentation.
Session Objectives

- Describe different types of active learning activities and why it matters for online teaching and learning.
- List techniques, strategies, and practical online tools (Yammer, Kahoot, Nearpod, Zoom) for incorporating active learning into online or blended courses.
- Examine innovative teaching strategies to discuss methods, aims, pedagogical properties, the role of the learners and facilitators, including strengths and possible challenges of various learning situations.
- Outline higher-order thinking strategies to increase learner engagement in order to improve retention.
Knowledge Check!

Pop Quiz!

Link: https://bit.ly/2X3kGud
Overview of Active Learning
Learning is an active process. We learn by doing.. Only knowledge that is used sticks in your mind.

— Dale Carnegie —
What is Active Learning?

• The English scholar, Reginald W. Revans, the originator of “action learning,” had invented and developed this method in the United Kingdom in the 1940s.

• Two Missouri State professors, historian Charles Bonwell and psychologist James Eison coined the term “active learning” (1991).

• Active learning instructional strategies include a wide range of activities that share the common elements involving students in doing things and thinking about the things they are doing (Bonwell & Eison 1991).
What is Active Learning?

Engage learners in:

- Thinking critically or creatively
- Speaking with a partner in a small group, or with the entire class
- Expressing ideas through writing
- Exploring personal attitudes and values
- Giving and receiving feedback
- Reflecting upon the learning process
Types of Active Learning

- Individual activities
- Paired activities
- Small group activities
- Collaborative student projects
Why Active Learning?

You'll forget about 80% of what you’ve learned in the first 30 days (*The Forgetting Curve* by German psychologist Hermann Ebbinghaus)

(Fuchs, 1997; Wozniak, 1999)
## Why Active Learning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Increase learner participation and engagement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engage</td>
<td>Engage learners in deep rather than surface learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Take</td>
<td>Take ownership of learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Prepare learners for the future by empowering them with the foundational skills they need to succeed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote</td>
<td>Promote learner-centered instruction (less lecturing by instructor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote</td>
<td>Promote higher order thinking skills and self-directed learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase</td>
<td>Increase learner retention</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Basic Elements of Active Learning

Reading  Thinking  Talking and listening  Writing
Involving  Problem Solving  Interacting  Discussing
Reflecting  Teaching  Applying  Acting

Doing/Engaging
Practical Tools for Active Teaching and Learning
Kahoot  https://kahoot.com
Yammer

Online discussion, social networking, and collaboration tool
Nearpod (Learner Engagement Platform)

https://nearpod.com/

Competency-Based Goals and Learning Objectives Presentation

AYGLD

A Sample Quiz

Code: GDVJY

Code: DBPOI
Zoom

- Feel like you’re connecting with another human online
- Teach online lessons (private or group)
- Lead online meetings or mentoring/coaching/consultations
- Present online to a group (webinars)
- Group discussions
- Video recording
Questions for Breakout Sessions

- What are the pedagogical characteristics of this innovating teaching tool?
- How to promote higher-order thinking strategies in this teaching tool?
- Can this teaching tool be utilized in your teaching situations? If not, what are the most pressing issues that may hinder use of this teaching technique?
- What is the next step or the key takeaways for this active teaching and learning method?
## Wrap Up

- Examine innovative, contemporary educational practices for online teaching and learning that will enhance the quality, quantity, and patterns of communication during the learning process.
- Integrate higher-order thinking strategies into learning activities to increase learner engagement and improve retention.
- Adopt new active teaching approaches that allow better knowledge acquisition in online/blended courses.
- Apply a range of interactive methodologies with practical online tools that may play a significant role in helping students review and understand important course materials.
- Describe your role and responsibilities as an online instructor in the active learning situations.
- State expectations and clarify the role of your learners in the active learning setting.
Quick Reflection

01
What are the two things you gained from this workshop?

02
What are the one thing you will use right away?

03
What is one thing you want to learn more about?
References


Thank You!

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