Incorporating Active Learning Teaching Strategies
Into Economics Courses Both Online and in
Class Formats

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What is active learning?

- **Active learning** is a model of instruction that focuses the responsibility of learning on learners ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_learning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_learning))

- Meyers and Jones (Promoting Active Learning: Strategies for the College Classroom, 1993) defined active learning as learning environments that allow “students to talk and listen, read, write, and reflect as they approach course content through problem-solving exercises, informal small groups, simulations, case studies, role playing, and other activities” -- all of which require students to implement what they are learning in a practical sense.

- Intellectually engage students while encouraging active participation in class discussions.

- Encourage students to take more ownership of the course.

- Deeper understanding the world in which they live and desire to be wiser participants in the economy.
What are the major characteristics associated with active learning?

- Involvement and responsibility for learning
- Interaction in more than passive listening and learning
- Engagement in activities
- Encouragement to think out of the box. “Critical Thinking Motivators”
- Feeling more supported and respected with their opinions and participations
- Attendance rate
- Give and receive constructive feedback
How to incorporate active learning instructional strategies in economics courses in online/hybrid and on campus classroom settings

- Diverse modes of teaching and learning regardless the type of the course
  - Real-world cases analysis
  - Current event analysis
  - Real-world videos analysis
  - Realistic case studies
  - Class individual/group discussion
  - Debates
How to incorporate active learning instructional strategies in economics courses in online/hybrid and on campus classroom settings

- Create Dynamic learning environment
  - Create a sociable atmosphere
  - Prevent Daunting lectures
  - Create a comfortable class environment their opinions and participations
  - Be ready for a spontaneous lecture
  - Support their judgment with evidence
  - Leave your “ego” out the door
How to incorporate active learning instructional strategies in economics courses in online/hybrid and on campus classroom settings

• Integrate the newest technologies into courses.
  • D2l (Desire to Learn)
  • Use the multimedia in classroom
  • Upgrade yourself- not just your computer
  • Supplemental exercises, Online lecture notes, current event videos, current economics news, study guides for each subjects, casual chat-room, interactive online discussions.
What are the some obstacle to implement active learning

- Large class sizes
- Students do not want to participate
- Struggle with non-lecture approaches
- Instructor’s ability or struggle with non-traditional style vs. traditional style
- Lack of instructor’s newest technology ability
- Time management
- Time consuming for an instructor The classroom setting (A lack of materials or equipment)
- Lack of instructor’s newest technology ability
Feedbacks from the students

As a result, students motivation and enthusiasm towards the course will increase.

- “Thanks, I actually had fun in your class...you definitely know how to keep things interesting. Your energy and attitude kept me engaged and made me feel challenged. I like challenges.”
- “I just wanted to thank you for a great class. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I love your teaching style and wish you taught all of the classes I need. I can honestly say that I can count on 3 fingers the instructors at SPSU of honorable mention, and you are one of them.
- “The generally cheerful atmosphere!. It made the class much more enjoyable. Dedicated professor. She always shows that she enjoys teaching the class which makes the class enjoyable. Some knowledge that I have never known before. It is going to benefit me directly in the future.”, “Real life engineering applications because that is what we will use outside of the class”
- “I knew nothing about it before, now I feel like I can solve any economical problem” “I learned a lot more about investments and how the economy works and now I can use this in real life situations”
Active learning instructional strategies are an opportunity to inspire, empower, motivate and challenge students to take on more responsibilities for their learning experiences by utilizing their critical thinking skills.

Today’s students must be engaged and treated as active learners.