

Active Learning Video Transcript

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Hello, my name is Melissa Brasgold and I am an educational developer at the Center for University Teaching from the University of Ottawa and today I'm going to talk to you about Active Learning and why you should use it. So what is Active Learning? Well basically active learning is having your students do things and think about the things that they're doing. So it's about processing the information and it works because it promotes deeper learning. It does this because it advocates that learning isn't just the transmission of information from one person to another, but rather it's the construction of meaning. When we process information, that's what we're doing. It also shifts the responsibility, from the teacher/instructor to be shared with the student, and in doing so what it does is it increases the self efficacy of the students; so it tells the student "you're capable of doing things". As children, we actually used to do this in classrooms. We let students do the work. And in doing so, what it did was increase the value of the experience because they were the ones that were doing the learning and so they end up learning more this way. That's simply what we're advocating to do here. And research shows us that active learning is beneficial and would work because our memory really doesn't work all that well, believe it or not. We only actually remember about 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we see and hear, 70% of what we say and 90%, when we do things with the information, so it's about what we say and do that matters. So that "doing" component is where we want to really focus on when it comes to active learning. So what can you do to actually incorporate active learning into your teaching practices? Well, consider, maybe a think-pair-share. A think-pair-share is basically when you have a student think about something on their own, then pair with another student; discuss it, and then share with the entire class. So in this way, you get everyone involved and you get everyone to share what they know on the topic. Another thing that you might want to consider is the one-minute paper. The one-minute paper is a great tool because you can use it at any point. You can use it

at the beginning of a lecture, at the end, online, etc. And what you can use it for is endless. One of the things that I advocate using it for is to obtain information from students on what they already know about a topic, so you don't cover that information. So you might want to ask students what they know about something, what they like about a topic that you covered in class, what they didn't like, what they want to know more about, or what they didn't understand. The uses here are endless. Polling or Voting is also another option you might want to consider. You can do this in an electronic format as well, using an online system where people log in using their cell phones or laptops, or you can take the old school route, using colored papers in a class. In this way, you get students involved and you get everyone to give them your input. So those students that may be a little bit more shy, might be more involved now. Right? And they'll get more out of the experience that way. So we've talked about a few methods that you might think of using, but there are a lot more that you might want to consider. If you want to know more about these, feel free to check out the resources available on our website or contact us. Now we've talked about a lot of different things, but I want you to remember: you need to start small here. Don't try and do everything all at once. You want to get comfortable with things, which means try it out, see how it works, have fun with it. If you use active learning, I promise you that you'll have fun doing it, you'll have a great time. So enjoy! And if you want to know more, make sure to check out the accompanying resources on our website by going to www.tlss.uOttawa.ca

Thank you!