

Active Learning Survey

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Participating in the Teaching Certificate Program at MSU reaffirmed my decision to incorporate active learning strategies in my courses. During the spring of 2005, I teach two classes: Oral Pathology and Embryology and Dental Computer Software Management. While I continue to lecture for about 20-25 minutes during a 50 minute lecture, the remaining time is spent on group projects. I completed an assessment of these active learning strategies to discover how the students felt about active learning. The results of this survey are included in this report.

Summary of findings:

- I believe it is critical to share with students the reason I choose to incorporate active learning into the classroom. Students are more familiar with traditional lecture, so active learning may be scary as it can challenge students in a new and different way. Even after a brief 5 minute description of why I use active learning, the students were able to define accurate reasons to utilize active learning.
- In an effort to keep students engaged during the lecture portion, I include the lecture notes in a class manual with blanks for key words that the students need to write in. 92% of students found this manual moderately or highly effective.
- When considering the variety of learning activities, students found the flow chart and matching exercises the most effective.
- While 61% of students prefer a variety of learning activities, I was surprised to discover that 39% of students would prefer only a couple learning activities they find most effective.
- 99% of students felt the learning activities helped them review the material either a moderate or high amount.
- 98% of students felt the learning activities helped them identify preparedness for the upcoming exams either a moderate or high amount.
- 52% of students felt they learned either a moderate or high amount from their classmates during the learning activities.
- 88% of students wanted the amount of lecture time mixed with learning activities to stay the same, no more and no less.

Impact of findings on my teaching:

- I will continue to explain why active learning is used in my courses for each class.
- I will continue to design a course manual with blank for key terms to engage the students during lecture.
- I will continue to use a variety of active learning strategies, however, I will use matching and flow charts more frequently than other strategies.
- I am pleased to discover the learning strategies are working to help students review the material and identify preparedness for exams. I am also pleased that the majority of students are learning from their classmates.
- For these students, I will continue to use the same amount of learning activities.
- I will use this evaluation tool with each new class to discover if the learning activities are adequate or need to be modified.

1. Please describe your understanding of why active learning techniques are incorporated into DHYG 334 and DHYG 329.

1. Help you memorize/learn; to hear ideas from your peers
2. In order to repeat what we have learned to help in memorization
3. Because they are another form of learning so we can study or understand in a different way.
4. It has got to be some new technique that teachers are trying to experiment with. It is to help get our involvement in the active learning process and keep our brains on task.
5. Because we are visual learners.
6. To help us learn the material.
7. With the learning activities, the information is reviewed after being discussed. These learning activities help us learn more during class time, able to interact.
8. To help us learn and let us see how much we know. Interacting with classmates, learning from others.
9. They are incorporated to help us learn the material better. It is supposed to make us learn it and it sticks with us. I like it a lot. It changes things up so we are not just taking notes.
10. It helps you actually participate so besides just the listening in lecture you have to think about the topics.
11. To help us learn better and to open our minds in other activities other than just having to study our notes.
12. So the material we learn is reinforced and repeated so we can catch the concepts
13. To help different people learn better; people learn in different ways.
14. To help us understand and retain information better, and to give us a different way to study other than just reading through the notes.
15. Because they help you learn better, class doesn't get boring.
16. To help us learn and understand the key concepts.

Rate the effectiveness **in helping review the material** presented in class for each of the following active learning techniques:

	Not effective	A little effective	Average effective	Moderate effective	Highly effective	MISSING
2. Designing a review question and sharing the questions/answers with the class	3	3	11	5 21%	2 8%	1
3. Matching Exercise	0	0	1	5 20%	19 76%	0
4. Flow Chart Exercise	0	0	1	2 8%	22 88%	0
5. Grouping Exercise by using paper slips	1	0	5	10 43%	7 30%	2
6. Scratch off lottery sheet with review questions	0	1	8	8 33%	7 29%	1
7. Sharing the most difficult and easiest concept with a classmate	3	6	9	4 16%	3 12%	0
8. Taking a short review quiz with a partner	0	1	6	6 25%	11 46%	1
9. Using the internet to find a case study and share with the class	4	8	10	2 8%	0	1
10. Small group (2-5) discussions with class discussion after	2	4	9	6 24%	4 16%	0
11. Lecture Outline with blanks to write in key words/concepts	1	0	1	12 48%	11 44%	0

Please circle your answers to the following questions:

12. When considering the active learning techniques used, which would you prefer?

Only 1-2 techniques that I find most helpful	Variety of techniques
2 missing 9 (39%)	14 (61%)

13. To what extent did the active learning techniques **help you review the material** presented in class?

Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Moderate amount	High amount
0	1 (4%)	0	14 (61%)	8 (35%)
2 missing				

14. To what extent did the active learning techniques **help you identify your preparedness** for the upcoming quizzes?

Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Moderate amount	High amount
0	1 (4%)	1 (4%)	11 (48%)	10 (44%)
2 missing				

15. To what extent did you **learn from your classmates** during the active learning techniques?

Not at all	A little	Somewhat	Moderate amount	High amount
0	1 (4%)	10 (44%)	10 (44%)	2 (8%)
2 missing				

16. In the future, which of the following would you prefer? (You may circle multiple answers if desired)

8 either missing or with multiple answers

0 - More active learning with less lecture

15 (88%) - The same amount of active learning mixed with lecture

2 (12%) - More lecture with less active learning

Video lectures provided on a CD, with active learning strategies used during class time

No active learning techniques

Multiple Answers:

3 – The same and more lecture with less active learning

2 – The same and video lectures

1 – More active learning in path and more lecture in computer management

Comments/Suggestions:

1. The best learning activities are the matching and flow chart. They really help us study.
2. I feel the active learning activities are helpful, but I feel like the lecture is too fast paced.
3. The matching, flow charts and quiz activities are really good.
4. Great job, great teacher, learning a lot.
5. You're doing a great job Angela.
6. Review activities at the end of lectures would be helpful in reviewing the new material immediately instead of waiting until the next lecture. The matching is very helpful for me and any sheet I can take home to review is nice.
7. You do great!