

# Teaching Tips for Active Learning

## "Session" vs "Lecture"



Use the term "session" to describe the class meetings rather than "lecture."

This will help set expectations that the class communication is not a one-way street and students are expected to actively participate.

## Avoid Differentiation

...when you are "lecturing" and when you are asking students to "engage" in active learning. The session should flow.

Introduce the active learning by simply continuing and saying  
*"I'd like to see a show of hands",*  
*"Please pair up and discuss X",*  
*"Please get into your small groups,"* or  
*"Please take out your iPads."*



## When Using Groups...

1. Put the students into groups BEFORE you give them directions. Otherwise they will be thinking about what group they are in and not listening to your directions.
2. Have groups identify their leader/note taker/other roles to complete what you asked, i.e.: if there will be "reporting out" determine upfront who is going to do it for each group.



## Handling Report Outs

If time is limited, allowing all small groups may not be possible.

You can cut down on "reporting out time" by asking group spokespeople only for something that has not yet been mentioned.

## Wait For Students

1. If you ask a question and there is no immediate response, WAIT; get comfortable with silence. Do not continue talking.
2. If a student asks a question, empower the room to answer. This gets students comfortable helping and working with each other, and not always looking to you for everything.

## Continuously read the room

If there is a significant amount of negativity, confusion, etc., stop the action. Ask the class if the instructions and goal of the activity are clear.

## If the students complain that they do not like something, model good behavior of accepting feedback:

Ask them what they thought they were supposed to get out of the active learning and why they didn't. If they say they don't know, that tells you that you need to frame the activity better.



**HAVE FUN. Enjoy the experience of seeing learning in action!**

