

ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOMS

9 TECHNIQUES TO TRY IN YOUR ALC

Try these 9 tools and strategies in your Active Learning Classroom as a way to encourage engagement

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

-Benjamin Franklin

1. **Poll Everywhere:** Interact with your class by posing specific questions relevant to your lesson. Students can submit answers in real-time using their phones or a computer. Polls can be embedded directly into your PowerPoint presentations.
2. **Progress Check:** At the end of each class period, or at a natural stopping point in class activities, take a minute to assess retention. Encourage your students to specify any unclear points from the course material to ensure understanding after each class.
3. **Buddy System:** Put students in groups to discuss their views on a topic before presenting them to the rest of the course. This will stimulate conversation about the course material.
4. **Pre-class Testing:** Get a clear picture of where your students are at the outset of the semester. Require students to take a pre-class quiz on Blackboard to assess where they are in the course.
5. **Prep-work:** Assign students a Lynda.com playlist to view before class, so they can come to class with prior knowledge of the course material.
6. **Guest Lecturer:** Invite a guest with related experience to meet with your students in person or via web conferencing using the classroom camera.
7. **Pre-record Mini Lessons:** Free up your class time by pre-recording a lecture with ECHO 360 that your students can watch before coming to class.
8. **Video Discussions:** Start a discussion forum using Blackboard and ask students to respond with their webcams.
9. **Virtual Review Sessions:** Schedule virtual office hours and review sessions. Encourage students to study course material outside of the classroom by acting as a facilitator in Blackboard.