

Summary Overview of Active Learning

Active Learning is an approach to teaching and learning that:

- places the needs, interests, attitudes, and experiences of the students at the center of instruction planning;
- uses instructional strategies that are student-centered instead of instructor-centered;
- engages students in activities that help develop higher-order thinking skills through the application of knowledge, analysis, and/or synthesis.

Why should you adopt Active Learning Techniques?

- Passively listening to a lecture is not useful for promoting higher-level thinking skills such as synthesis, evaluation, inquiry, and creation.
- Students learn best when there is a balance between lectures and learner-centered activities, and when the activities are varied and support higher-order thinking skills.
- Research suggests that active learning techniques improve student grades and retention rates, and promote critical thinking skills.

ProTip

For getting started with Active Learning:

- Start small and gradually add more activities over time;
- Explain why you are doing it for student buy-in;
- Design activities that have a clear task;
- Consider how you will form groups to minimize disturbances to the class flow;
- Prepare clear instructions to keep everyone on task;

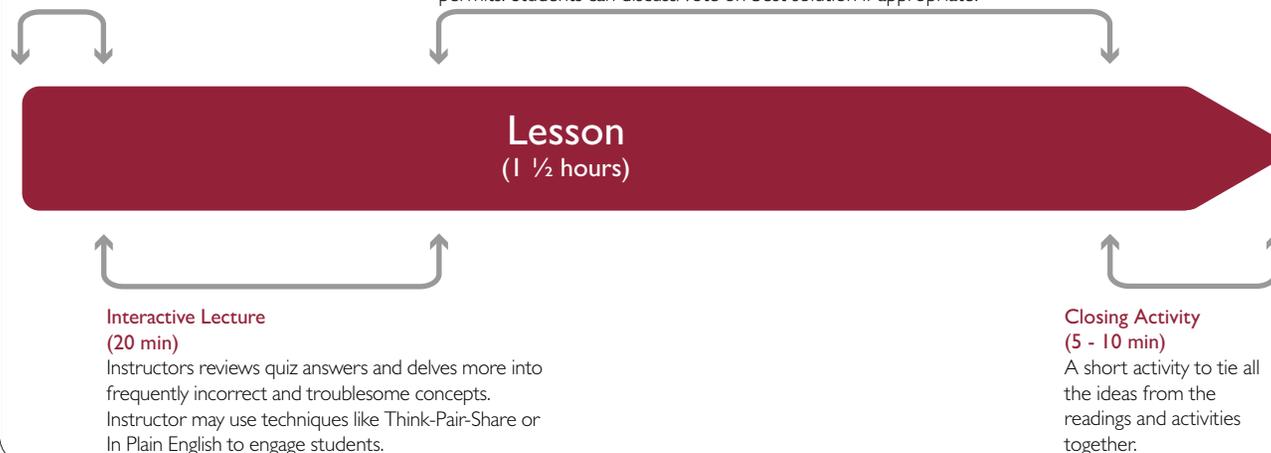
Active Learning Lesson 1 - 1 ½ hours lesson

Clicker Quiz (5 min)

Students answer 5 clicker questions based on readings.

Task-based Activity (20 - 40 min)

Students form groups and work on a specific task related to the content. They will need to provide an artifact to submit or present at the end that shows their work. The instructor can select a few groups to present to the class as time permits. Students can discuss/vote on best solution if appropriate.



Interactive Lecture (20 min)

Instructors reviews quiz answers and delves more into frequently incorrect and troublesome concepts. Instructor may use techniques like Think-Pair-Share or In Plain English to engage students.

Closing Activity (5 - 10 min)

A short activity to tie all the ideas from the readings and activities together.

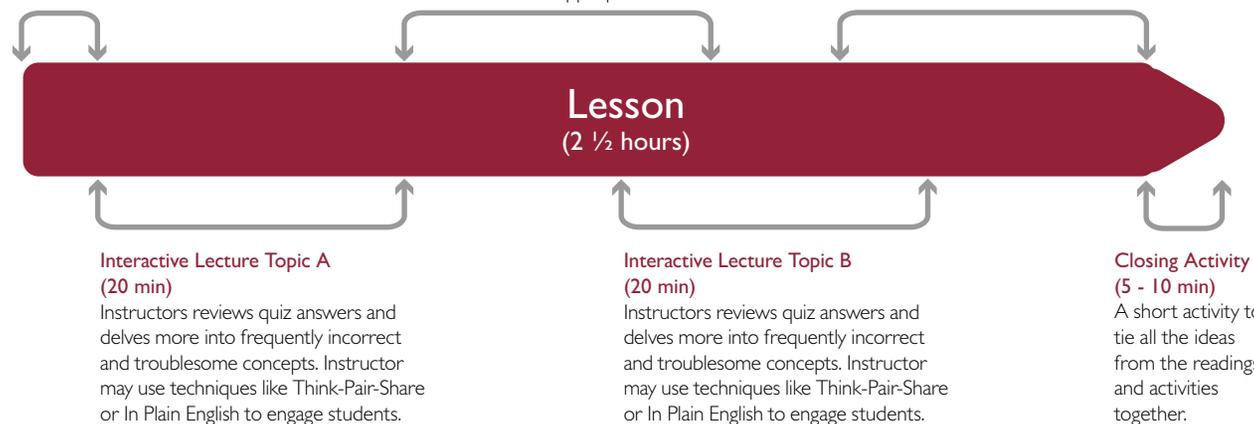
Active Learning Lesson 2 ½ - 3 hours lesson

Clicker Quiz (5 min)

Students answer 5 clicker questions based on readings.

Task-based Activity Topics A & B (20 - 40 min each)

Students form groups and work on a specific task related to the content. They will need to provide an artifact to submit or present at the end that shows their work. The instructor can select a few groups to present to the class as time permits. Students can discuss/vote on best solution if appropriate.



Interactive Lecture Topic A (20 min)

Instructors reviews quiz answers and delves more into frequently incorrect and troublesome concepts. Instructor may use techniques like Think-Pair-Share or In Plain English to engage students.

Interactive Lecture Topic B (20 min)

Instructors reviews quiz answers and delves more into frequently incorrect and troublesome concepts. Instructor may use techniques like Think-Pair-Share or In Plain English to engage students.

Closing Activity (5 - 10 min)

A short activity to tie all the ideas from the readings and activities together.