



Fifty Ways to Leave Your Next Class with More Learning

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Here's a quick reference list to help you select learning activities that will bring variety to your class sessions.

1. Mini-lectures with guided notes and dyad discussions.
2. Guest speaker with questioning period.
3. Survival/emergency problem solving.
4. Media presentation and concept analysis.
5. Student-constructed presentations.
6. Short-term small group discussions.
7. Long-term team project.
8. Research paper module evaluation.
9. Thought paper—one-page essay shared in class.
10. Biographical essays or discussions.
11. Values analysis.
12. Risk analysis.
13. Feasibility project analysis.
14. Cost/benefit analysis.
15. Case study of organization or business.
16. Role plays.
17. Instructor demonstrations.
18. Student demonstrations.
19. Learning games.
20. Peer teaching situations.
21. Student-generated question period.
22. Perform learning assessments.
23. Paper/product/art project critique.



24. Outside expert panel.
25. Student expert panel.
26. Student-produced media segments.
27. Poster session to visualize complex concepts.
28. Treasure hunt cyberspace or classroom.
29. Awards session for student performance.
30. Real research projects for local companies.
31. Concept drawing by students.
32. News media analysis session.
33. Peer interviews.
34. Interview project involving community members.
35. Journal entry session.
36. Create metaphors for complex processes.
37. Meta-thinking session—instructor explains thought processes and strategies used to solve a problem.
38. Present examples and non-examples when first learning new terminology.
39. Questioning session—teacher-to-student, student-to-student.
40. Create graphics—concepts maps, flow charts, diagrams, time lines, etc.
41. Draw or analyze cartoons that teach a main point.
42. Internet or e-library information searches with top-ten report and links.
43. E-mail discussion groups.
44. Students write and perform songs, jingles, or raps of crucial concepts or procedures.
45. Laboratory projects or in-class experimental work.
46. Field trips.
47. Create simulations for students to experience the knowledge they are learning.
48. Sensory awareness exercises.
49. Students perform plays or skits that teach a point.
50. Imagery rehearsal session to improve memory and performance.

To obtain maximum effectiveness think of each learning activity as a process. Each learning activity should be divided into eight sub-activities:

1. Gain learners' attention.
2. Communicate objective.
3. Help students recall previous learning needed to successfully complete new activity.
4. Engage learner with new information.
5. Facilitate students working with the new activity.
6. Provide opportunities for applying what has been learned.
7. Evaluate performance of students with learning activity.
8. Review important concepts to enhance retention.

Factors to consider when selecting learning activities

Students have preferred learning styles that are a specific mix of the three modalities of learning:

- Hearing.
- Seeing.
- Touching.

Therefore, as you select learning activities most appropriate for your class, provide a mix of learning experiences that provide activities in all three learning modes.

To be successful your students must have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to engage the learning activity. For example, students may need training in team process before being assigned to a long-term team project.

Rate the complexity of the task and the likely acceptance or resistance to the learning activity you have selected. Some students find small group discussion very uncomfortable.

Consider that learners have multiple intelligences and need opportunities to express learning in areas in which they excel.