

# Active Learning: 5 ways

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# Active learning...

"anything that involves students in doing things and thinking about the things they are doing" (Bonwell and Eison, 1991)

"anything course-related that all students in a class session are called upon to do other than simply watching, listening, and taking notes" (Felder and Brent, 2009)

# 1. Think, Pair, Share

## How?

Teacher asks a question.

Teacher gives one minute to think.

Pairs discuss their answers.

Teacher asks students to share answers with the class.

## Why?

Students need time for cognitive processing.

Students can test out and expand on their answer in a safer environment (a pair).

## 2. Silence is golden

### How?

Teacher asks a question and specifies how students should answer.

Teacher is silent.

Teacher counts to ten slowly in head.

### Why?

Students need time for cognitive processing.

Silence is uncomfortable: someone will answer. Over time, participation becomes expected.

# 3. Pyramid

## How?

Teacher poses a problem.

Pairs/small groups discuss and reach consensus.

Small groups join into larger groups, discuss, and reach consensus.

Whole class discusses and reaches consensus.

## Why?

Students actively engage with the content.

## 4. Role play

### How?

Teacher assigns simple roles and situation.

Students engage in discussion.

### Why?

Students explore the content in a different way.

Encourages critical thinking.

# 5. Concept mapping

## How?

Teacher specifies a concept.

Students draw a concept map to show their understanding (individual or pairs).

## Why?

Students need review.

Introduces another mode of understanding.

Teacher gets feedback/formative assessment.

# Summary

1. Think, Pair, Share
2. Silence is golden
3. Pyramid
4. Role play
5. Concept mapping



# Further resources

[How can you incorporate active learning into your classroom?](#) (pdf from University of Michigan)

[Active Learning handout](#) (Yale Center for Teaching & Learning)

[What is active learning?](#) (Faculty of Arts CLIQ)

Your faculty...



# References

Bonwell, C. C., & Eison, J. A. (1991). Active learning: Creating excitement in the classroom (ASHE-ERIC Higher Education Rep. No. 1). Washington, DC: The George Washington University, School of Education and Human Development.

Felder, R.M. & Brent, R. (2009). Active learning: an Introduction. ASQ Higher Education Brief, 2(4).