Deepening Student Engagement with Information: Active Approaches to Instruction

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The What and Why of Active Learning

Active learning is an educational approach in which teachers ask students to **apply** classroom content during instructional activities and to **reflect** on the actions they have taken.

Lectures invite student passivity, and research shows that passive students learn less.

Active learning approaches, on the other hand, are **student-centered**, requiring students to manipulate academic content during the lesson and placing the teacher in an advisory role. The bottom line in active learning is, **in order to learn, students must do more than simply listen**.

Four Examples of Active Learning from Muhlenberg College

• A flipped and active introduction to scientific communication
  – Rachel Hamelers

• A collection development project as hands-on information literacy instruction
  – Kelly Cannon

• Please touch! Using special collections in instruction
  – Susan Falciani

• Using research process and strategy activities as authentic assessment to guide instruction
  – Jen Jarson
How This Session Will Work

• You will be at every table for 11 minutes
• At the end of that time you will move clockwise
• We will wrap-up the last few minutes with questions/comments
• Our contact information is on our handouts
Wrap-up

How might you adapt one or more of these ideas for a class or classes at your institution?