Student Engagement Activities

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Topic: Student engagement activities to break up, but *not replace* the lecture

Activity: Student activities can be used to break up long lecture segments and increase student engagement without replacing lecture entirely. These activities are designed to take less than 10 minutes and allow students the opportunity to process the information presented during the lecture portion. Students are encouraged to work in small groups to complete a task either on small whiteboards or chalk benches. These low-stakes erasable platforms make errors easy to catch and “fix” on the spot. Student tasks may include drawings, concept maps or a mini-problem based study where each group is assigned a different task to solve a larger problem. Student activities are easily adaptable to multiple disciplines.

Application: These techniques can be used in face to face classes in multiple disciplines as a technique to break up long lecture segments and increase student participation and engagement.

Personal Note: This activity requires very few materials (whiteboard, laminated poster board, chalk/markers) and can be adapted to any environment.

Online Variation: This activity is best used to increase student engagement in face to face classes.

Critical Keys: 2. Encourages student to link new information to existing knowledge and life experiences in meaningful way through multiple learning styles.

5. Encourages active and collaborative engagement among students in the learning process.

6. Provides reinforcement of student learning through prompt feedback

Credit: This activity is adapted from the techniques of multiple instructors; Jessica Moody, PhD (HCC NW: Bio) and John Barry (HCC NW: Physics).