

Ways to Enhance Learning in the Classroom

Would you believe that research on learning suggests that if you actively engage your students in class, even your worst attempts are likely to be as effective if not more so than your best lectures?

Here are some ways you can foster engagement and deeper understanding among your students:

1. Present a multiple-choice question where there could be a 50-50 split between two answers or equal split among several answers to invite debate and engage students in logical argument.
2. Pose a question that allow students to apply concepts presented in class and make connections between ideas. Encourage dialogue between students to foster the ability to explain and defend their reasoning.
3. Promote students' ability to evaluate others' reasoning by asking a student who chose one response to a question to offer reasons why someone would select an alternate response.
4. Solicit from students several feasible responses to a question. Have students vote individually, and then examine each response as a class or in groups followed by another vote. The exchange would allow faculty to hear what students are thinking and assess if students are correct in their reasoning.
5. Have students develop their own questions and facilitate an in-class discussion or debate.

You can use various methods for presenting your questions in class: the chalkboard, a PowerPoint slide, a document camera, or TWEN's customized polling, and now there's another option—CUClickers which includes an instructor's kit and 25 clicker remotes. For class sizes greater than 25, students can partner or work in small groups.

If you'd like to explore using any of the above tools to help you keep your students engaged, contact Doris Cheung, Distributed Academic Technology Coordinator, at Doris.Cheung@colorado.edu or 303.492.5315.