



# Active Learning Strategies:

Engaging Students in Active Learning

# Day Two

- Focused Listing
- Note Check
- Think/Pair/Share or Write/Pair/Share
- Flipped Classroom

# 5. Focused Listing

Focused listing is a strategy in which students recall what they know about a subject by creating a list of terms or ideas related to it. To begin, the instructor asks students to take out a sheet of paper and begin generating a list based on a topic presented on a PowerPoint slide. Topics might relate to the day's assigned reading, to a previous day's lecture material, or to the subject of the current session.

# 5. Focused Listing

Instructors often move around the room and look at students' lists as they write, briefly summarizing major trends or themes as a way of closing the exercise. Others ask students randomly to share the contents of their lists before moving on with their lecture. In either case, focused listing need not take more than a few minutes. It's an effective way to get students to actively engage material, and it offer feedback that the instructor can use to tailor the subsequent presentation of material to students' needs.

## 6. Note Check

The note check is a strategy in which the instructor asks students to partner with someone near by and compare their notes, focusing on summarizing key information and locating misconceptions. Students can also generate questions or solve a problem posed by the instructor. The exercise can be completed in as little as two or three minutes.

## 6. Note Check

Some instructors find this strategy problematic because they assume that students will simply not take notes, relying instead on their peers to do the work for them. It's important to remember that students are not giving their notes to one another in this exercise, but working together to fill gaps in their collective understanding of the information. In this way, instructors can help students learn good note taking skills, as well as monitor whether or not students are able to identify the key ideas in the day's material.

# Example of Strategy 6

- Benefits of Actively Engaging Students in Learning
- Tips for Implementation

# Example of Strategy 6

- Compare your notes with a partner, focusing on summarizing key information and locating misconceptions.
- Generate one question about this topic.



## 7. Think-Pair-Share or Write-Pair-Share

"Think-Pair-Share" is an active learning strategy that engages students with material on an individual level, in pairs, and finally as a large group. It consists of three steps. First, the instructor poses a prepared question, posts a quote from the reading, or presents a visual or digital aid and asks individuals to think (or write) about it quietly. Second, students pair up with someone sitting near them and share their responses verbally. Third, the lecturer chooses a few pairs to briefly summarize their ideas for the benefit of the entire class.

## 7. Think-Pair-Share or Write-Pair-Share

When used at the beginning of a lecture, a Think-Pair-Share strategy can help students organize prior knowledge and brainstorm questions. When used later in the session, the strategy can help students summarize what they're learning, apply it to novel situations, and integrate new information with what they already know. The strategy works well with groups of various sizes and can be completed in as little as two or three minutes, making it an ideal active learning strategy for classes in which lecture is the primary instructional method.

# Example of Strategy 7

During lecture: “We will watch a few minutes of a TED talk presentation by Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie titled ‘The Danger of a Single Story’.”

# Example of Strategy 7

## Step One:

On a PowerPoint slide, present quote from the lecture followed by a question and allow students a few moments to think or write quietly about the material:

*“Now, I loved those American and British books I read. They stirred my imagination. They opened up new worlds for me. But the unintended consequence was that I did not know that people like me could exist in literature. So what the discovery of African writers did for me was this: It saved me from having a single story of what books are.” –Adichie*

What is the danger of a single story?

Spend the next 2 minutes responding in writing to this question.

# Example of Strategy 7

Step Two:

Pair up with the person next to you (or in groups of 3) and discuss your thoughts.

OR

Pair up with the person next to you and read what you wrote.

# Example of Strategy 7

## Step Three:

Ask for a few group volunteers to share what they discussed. Groups will pose new insights and/or questions for the larger discussion.

# 8. Flipped Classroom

**THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM** Turning Traditional Education on Its Head

Many educators are experimenting with the idea of a flipped classroom model. So what is it and why is everyone talking about it?

**WHAT IS THE FLIPPED CLASSROOM?**

The flipped classroom inverts traditional teaching methods, delivering instruction online outside of class and moving "homework" into the classroom.

**THE INVERSION**

**The Traditional Classroom**  
Teacher's Role: Sage on the Stage

LECTURE TODAY Homework: reading and questions for tomorrow

**The Flipped Classroom**  
Teacher's Role: Guide on the Side

ACTIVITY TODAY WATCH lecture video tonight

The infographic illustrates the transition from a traditional classroom to a flipped classroom. On the left, 'The Traditional Classroom' shows a teacher at the front of a classroom, with a chalkboard displaying 'LECTURE TODAY' and 'Homework: reading and questions for tomorrow'. On the right, 'The Flipped Classroom' shows a teacher at the back of a classroom, with a chalkboard displaying 'ACTIVITY TODAY' and 'WATCH lecture video tonight'. A large red arrow points from the traditional model to the flipped model.

- A flipped classroom is where students receive the key instructional elements outside of class. Then in the classroom, they apply the knowledge.
- Instruction can be provided through videos, podcasts, websites, DVDs, CDs, or any other form that provides a clear instructional message.
- In the classroom, students work together under the guidance of the teacher in applying the instruction to complex problems.