Defining the Role of the Instructor in an Active Learning Environment

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Purpose of the session:

To provide an over-arching context for the week’s activities.
Plan for the session:

• Ask questions to help reveal our mental models of our classroom.

• Test our mental models by reflecting on what really happens in our classroom.

• Discuss what we should do in our classrooms to match our mental models.

• Reflect on what happened during the session.
Mrs. Mortleman made sure that everyone participated in class.
Do you want us to write what we think, or what we think you want us to think?
What is my job in the classroom?

_Do not put your name on this card_

Side 1: What is your role in the classroom?

Side 2: What do you do in the classroom to accomplish this goal?
How do we learn?

Think of something that you learned recently (e.g., a “new” way of viewing something, a new skill, the solution to a problem).

Describe to your neighbor the *process* that you went through when you learned this.
Steps to meaningful learning:

1. Recognize an existing mental model (idea).
2. Test the mental model (idea).
3. Refine the mental model.
Model of the Environment for Meaningful Learning

Prior Knowledge (Input State) → Learning Activities (Transition State) → Performance Goals (Outcome) (Output state)
Options for Learning Activities

Lecture
Case studies   POGUL
Think-Pair-Share
Group work   Clickers
Voice over Powerpoint
Computer labs   Debate
Thumbs Up-Down
Whole class discussion
Role play   Social media
Vulcan Mind-Meld
Flipped classroom
Interactive computer lessons
Principles for Helping the Learner to Learn

Principle 1

• We cannot learn for our students.

• Students must do the learning.

• Students must take responsibility for their learning.

Principle 2

• Our job is to help the learner to learn.
Principle 3
• Students come to us with prior knowledge.

Principle 4
• We must help students make their current mental model visible.

Principle 5
• We must create safe learning environments.

Principle 6
• Life is cumulative!
Reflection

What happened today?

• What did you experience?

• What did I/we do?
  What was the purpose for doing what we did?

• How did you react?

• What did you learn?