



OUR
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Active Methodologies in the Classroom

What are Active Methodologies?

Teaching methods and strategies that involve student participation and engagement with the material in a meaningful way during class time.

Active learning is an approach that requires students ***“to actively participate in their learning in a wide variety of ways, thereby increasing the possibility of internalising what they have explored and of being able to use the learning in their everyday lives.”*** (PDST <https://www.pdst.ie/SPHE-Approaches-and-Methodologies>)

The use of active learning contributes significantly to fostering **self-confidence**, **self-discipline** and **self-control** in the learner. (PDST).

What does active learning look like in the classroom?



Active learning takes place when students are **actively involved in the learning process**, as opposed to being passive recipients of information. There are endless examples of active methodologies but some of the most common approaches include:

- Working together on a group or pair task.
- Giving peer feedback.
- Placemat activities: students work in groups gathered around a “placemat” organised with sections for each student to record their ideas and a central section for students to summarise their ideas.
- Think - Pair -Share.
- Discussing and debating ideas, tasks or concepts.

¹ <https://stearnscenter.gmu.edu/knowledge-center/student-engagement-classroom-management/active-learning/>

- Making presentations.
- Competitions, challenges and quizzes.
- Snowball: students think about their own responses to issues and to begin a collaboration process with those around them to consider their thoughts on the same question.

Challenges in the current landscape: learning together while apart

With social distancing requirements our physical movements in the classroom are now restricted. The layout of our traditional collaborative classroom is now changed. OLS teachers are therefore getting creative in the methodologies that we are implementing for active learning in the classroom and are reimagining some techniques to this end. Our students are now **learning together while keeping apart**. Examples of such approaches include (but are not limited to):

- Making maximum use of digital tools in the classroom (Flipgrid, Kahoot, Quizlet, Edpuzzle, Mentimeter, ETC).
- Show Me Board (school journal).
- Activities such as Track the Sound.
- Employing the Magenta Principles (Mike Hughes).
- Adapted group - pair work.
- Adapted Placemat.
- Pair/group discussion/consultation.
- Jamboard.
- Group and pair work.