

# Active learning

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Active learning is an approach to instruction that involves actively engaging students with the course material through discussions, problem solving, case studies, role plays and other methods. Active learning approaches place a greater degree of responsibility on the learner than passive approaches such as lectures, but instructor guidance is still crucial in the active learning classroom. Active learning activities may range in length from a couple of minutes to whole class sessions or may take place over multiple class sessions.

## *principles of active learning:*

.Purposive: the relevance of the task to the students' concerns.

.Reflective: students' reflection on the meaning of what is learned.

.Negotiated: negotiation of goals and methods of learning between students and teachers.

.Critical: students appreciate different ways and means of learning the content.

.Complex: students compare learning tasks with complexities existing in real life and making reflective analysis.

.Situation-driven: the need of the situation is considered in order to establish learning tasks.

.Engaged: real life tasks are reflected in the activities conducted for learning.

Active learning requires appropriate learning environments through the implementation of correct strategy. **Characteristics of learning environment are**

- Aligned with constructivist strategies and evolved from traditional philosophies.
- Promoting research based learning through investigation and contains authentic scholarly content.
- Encouraging leadership skills of the students through self-development activities.

- Creating atmosphere suitable for collaborative learning for building knowledgeable learning communities.
- Cultivating a dynamic environment through interdisciplinary learning and generating high-profile activities for a better learning experience.
- Integration of prior with new knowledge to incur a rich structure of knowledge among the students.
- Task-based performance enhancement by giving the students a realistic practical sense of the subject matter learnt in the classroom.