Making Your Instruction More Active

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INSTRUCTIONS

1. Select your scenario. Join others who selected the same scenario.
2. Together brainstorm ways to incorporate more active learning and engagement.
3. Go to http://go.osu.edu/superbetterlearning for materials from this session.
4. Add your favorite ideas for your scenario to that scenario’s slide.

SCENARIOS

1. Philosophy or History class discussion of complex ideas introduced in homework reading. In the last two class sessions 2 students have dominated the conversation and the rest of the class has gotten increasingly disengaged. How might this class period be restructured?
2. First level Physics lecture of foundational content. TAs in recitation report that students are not grasping the content despite demonstrating basic principles using weights and scales. How might the session be changed to be more active and engaging?
3. Your unit on campus offers many services and resources to help students be successful. In previous FYSS sessions in which you just listed in detail all of the ways your unit helps students, all the students’ eyes seem to glaze over and a couple even put their heads on the table. What might you do to engage students in these sessions?
4. In your survey course, students work on a group project, but in peer evaluations, students echo a common complaint about group members who don’t contribute as much as the others. What are ways in which you might adjust the design of this assignment to address this issue?
5. Create your own scenario!
INSTRUCTIONS
You are facing a very unusual challenge. You’ll need to pick one person who you would join forces with as you tackle the hypothetical challenge presented. The challenge scenarios are fictional, but the person you pick should be real, someone you already know and are close to in everyday life.

Who is your superpower ally?
On no! A meteor struck planet Earth, and its cosmic rays have turned millions of people into mutants with unpredictable superpowers. Guess what? You are now one of those mutants with superpowers. You’re pretty sure you can figure out a way to use them for good. But in the meantime the government is after you.

Who can you trust with your secret? Who will you tell the truth to about your superpowers? Who can help you figure out what to do with them?

Who is your secret spending spree ally?
Whoa! Your eccentric, long-lost aunt Zelda just left you one million dollars in her will. If you spend it all by next Tuesday, you’ll inherit a billion dollars. But there’s a catch: you have to spend the first million without accumulating a single worldly possession, and you can’t give the money away or donate it to charity.

Aunt Zelda’s will stipulates that you can enlist only one person’s help in spending the first million. If you tell anyone else what you’re up to, the money goes to her cat. Who do you enlist as your coconspirator, as you try to unlock the billion dollars? Who would be able to help you come up with a winning strategy? Who would you have the most fun with as you blow through the first million dollars?