



Teacher Tutorial #19

from Marcia:

How to Use Active Learning to Engage Your Students in the Learning Process



How to Use Active Learning to Engage Your Students in the Learning Process

How do you use active learning strategies on a daily basis to engage more of your students in the learning process?

THAT CERTAINLY IS THE QUESTION! It's a piece of cake if you follow a few simple guidelines!

I like to use the Five E's: Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate.

1. ENGAGE: Catch Your Students' Interest!

I recommend that you ALWAYS use Bellwork! Here are some of the different things you can do for

Bellwork:

- A. Scrambled Puzzle with Definition of primary vocabulary word of unit
- B. Math problems
- C. Measure the lines in centimeters
- D. Movie clip: Write 5 Qs
- E. Entrance/Exit Passes
- F. Direct Question related to yesterday's lesson - most common: use test questions or a slightly altered test question = you could even tell them near the test day that all bellwork will show up on the test in some form

G. **TIP:** Use simple stamps to "catch" students in desired behavior. Never stamp a bell if they are not actively engaged in the bellwork when you arrive at their desk. (Start at different places in room each time-do once a week or less)

Videos:

A. Catch their interest with a dramatic Tornado or Volcano or Earthquake Video or any other video that illustrates the unit - no written response necessary -just discuss and then move right into next activity.



Marcia's Science Teaching Ideas was founded by Marcia Krech, a retired Earth Science Teacher from Missouri, who believes passionately in passing on what she knows about good science teaching. I encourage teachers to use the active learning model including team games and foldables which puts the student to work and assigns the teacher the role of facilitator.

Email me with questions!

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B. YouTube Videos - search for short videos or just show part of one - use from traditional, trusted sources such as Discovery.com, National Geographic, History Channel.

2. EXPLAIN: Input the Material.

- A. Foldable - Design one for each unit!
- B. PowerPoint with Cut & Paste FollowSheet
- C. Video with Cut & Paste FollowSheet
- D. Hands-On Lab or Activity

3. ELABORATE: Practice the Material.

- A. Hands-On Lab or Activity
- B. Team Skits
- C. Build a Model (Paper or Clay)
- D. Team Game - Plan one for every day! They can last two minutes and students don't have to leave their seat! (Pair Games work for this!)

4. ELABORATE: Have Fun with the Material!

- A. Team Skits
- B. Team Games
- C. Worksheet with Cut & Paste or coloring or some other active element
- D. Cut and Paste Vocab Team Game

5. EVALUATE (EXPLAIN): Review the Material!

- A. White Board Team Game
- B. Vocabulary Team Game
- C. Pairs Review Sheet

6. EVALUATE: Test the Material!

- A. Individual Quiz
- B. Pairs Quiz
- C. Small Group Quiz
- D. Individuals Test
- E. Pairs Test
- F. Team Test

The SECRET is in Your TRANSITIONS! How you move students in your classroom.

1. You **CAN** train your students to move from one activity to the next without chaos!

2. Make a list of your normal **desk/table set-ups** and some new ones you want to try.

- A. Single desks or tables facing forward & teacher in front in power position
- B. Tables/Desks arranged in pairs groupings
- C. Tables/Desks arranged in small groups of four to six students
- D. Tables/Desks arranged in large U-shape
- E. TEAM GAME Arrangement

3. Get an inexpensive **Timer!** Train your students to respond to timed transitions from your "normal" arrangement to the new one and back again

4. One Minute - Good amount of time to move into and out of different formations.

5. Team Games - Use one-minute timers to begin and end team games.

6. Pairs Assignments - Use five-minute timers to complete a task

7. Longer Times for larger projects (if at all)

8. SECRET: Always give them **LESS** time than they think they need! This makes them scurry a little bit and you can always give them one more minute at the end.

9. Train one arrangement at a time!

10. If a transition is not done well by the class, RETRAIN, don't punish!

If your students aren't learning, change the way you teach!

Goodies for the Teacher:



A little more on the 5 E's:

E E E E E

[Click here for a peak!](#)

Listen to my Team Games Podcast to see how I manage TRANSITIONS!



[Click here to listen!](#)

How to Write a Good Science Lesson using Types of Volcanoes as an example.



[Click here for a peak!](#)

Teacher Tutorial #10: How to Teach Science Vocab with an Active Learning Approach

Weathering

when rocks are broken down into smaller fragments

[Click here for a peak!](#)