

In-Class Action-Based Learning Activities

Stir the Class

Bloom's Revised Learning Objective: understand (comprehension)

Purpose:

- enhances higher level thinking skills
- promotes consensus and group discussion
- allows ongoing assessment of student learning
- encourages students to focus on the topic
- provides a social atmosphere for learning

Application:

- provide each student with a piece of paper and have them number it from 1 to 10 (or 15 or 20...)
- after giving your students a topic area, have them write down three reasons/causes/points of interest/facts about the topic on their own sheet making sure that their third response is unique
- upon your signal, have your students move around the classroom to their classmates and collect/give one idea from/to each classmate and record it on their sheet
- once the allotted number of responses have been gathered/shared, have your students return to their seats and organize their information; this can be done however you choose based on the lesson format – i.e. prioritize, sequence, cause-and-effect, create research questions, etc
- discuss the findings and end results

Tips:

- allow for a bit of conversation between your students
- encourage discussion and debate on certain topics/points
- provide an opportunity for all students to be heard in some fashion