

Active Learning Menu

We define Active Learning as learning by doing, working with others, solving problems, and making choices. This resource models one of those aspects: making choices.

Challenge yourself to expand your practice with a strategy you choose, one “meal” or “recipe” at a time. Or, share this menu with your colleagues and set team-goals for trying items from each portion of the menu within a certain timeframe.

How to use the Active Learning Menu

Appetizers

- do not require extensive planning
- can be used within the context of just one activity or one class period

Main Courses

- more preparation needed
- may require longer term thinking about learning goals and assessment, with development of new/different classroom structures and routines
- may require front-loaded planning: gathering or creating materials for several lessons, potentially an entire unit, before students begin

Desserts

- not directly tied to curriculum development or content area strategies
- may require disruption to routine or renovation of your physical space
- may involve broader thinking and planning about culture and classroom climate

How to use the Appetizer and Main Course Recipes

This page of “recipes” provides named strategies for several of the suggested techniques on the menu. Most link to resources that explain the strategy or provide templates and examples.

Active Learning Menu

Appetizers

Provide students with choices through DIFFERENTIATED LEARNING MATERIALS (articles, texts, problem sets, etc.)

Create learning activities that involve being PHYSICALLY ACTIVE (kinesthetic).

Provide OPTIONS for a FORMATIVE assignment

Use a COOPERATIVE LEARNING STRUCTURE to facilitate collaboration

Desserts

Set up FLEXIBLE SEATING in your classroom

Create/designate a MAKER SPACE in your classroom

Designate regular “BRAIN-BREAKS”

Use an active learning activity to build RELATIONSHIPS or CLASSROOM CULTURE

Main Courses

“FLIP THE CLASSROOM” by recording videos for students to watch on their own time; focus class time on discussion, application, collaboration, or peer teaching

Create learning activities that involve developing and completing a PROJECT

Provide OPTIONS for SUMMATIVE projects and assignments

Provide OPTIONS for PARTICIPATION in activities during class

Set up a series of activities or lessons to complete in a FLEXIBLY PACED MANNER

Appetizer & Main Course Recipes

Named Strategies for the Active Learning Menu

Physically Active Learning Activities

- [Act It Out](#)
- [Four Corners](#)
- [Vocabulary Charades](#)
- [Give One, Get One](#)

Cooperative Learning Structures

- [Think-Pair-Share](#)
- [Jigsaw](#)
- [Write Around](#)
- [Round Robin](#)
- [Tea Party](#)
- [Carousel](#)
- [Graffiti Board](#)
- [Roll the Dice](#)

Differentiation of Learning Materials

- [Concept Maps](#)
- [Cloze Reading](#)
- Animations/Videos
- [Screen Reader](#)
- [Chunking](#)
- [Multiple Modalities](#)
- [Audio Texts](#)
- [Active Reading Bookmarks](#)

Strategies for Providing Choice

- [Activity Menu](#)
- [Choice Board](#)
- [Tic-Tac-Toe](#)
- [Must Do-Should Do-Aspire to Do](#)

Your Notes and Ideas:

Get more resources like this at www.opportunityeducation.org/resources