Megan Dempsey: Controlled Chaos: Energizing Your Instruction with Active Learning

Megan modelled the use of Poll Everywhere by displaying a question on the wall for attendees to answer on their devices when they entered the classroom.

She suggested focusing first on what you want your students to learn and then picking a tool that helps them learn it.

Active Learning: problem based, student centered, hands-on,

Expectations for students – want to get started right away so start with active learning and make it clear what you expect of students. Start off with active learning to set the tone and expectations.

This is not a typical format for a class. First 10 minutes are so important to set a tone of expected engagement.

Some ideas:

* Think Pair Share (think about a question, write down some answers & share with a partner and then with the larger group)
* Source type comparison/identification activity (find differences between a mag vs journal, for example)
* Search challenge – find an article on XX; discuss how they approached the search
* With the person next to you, list 3 things you already know about the library or research, and 3 things you want to know by the end of this session

Engage with Technology

* Polling (at the beginning as students are coming into a room) Poll Everywhere.
* Kahoot – quizzing technology
* Padlet – <http://megandempsey.weeblycom/vale-conference-2016.html>
  + Can be embedded into a libguide. It is like a digital white board. Can be used outside of the classroom. Used to collect collaborative info from students.

Guided Discovery – instructions and students explore a resource at their own pace, independently. More prep is needed in advance.

* Detailed check lists can be used, students ask questions as they go, use screenshots.
* It has been found to be effective along with worked example.

Use keyword chart – do this together as a worked example. Then they can work on their own topics.

Directed Note-taking: students can take notes within a worksheet with blanks

Engage with Group Work

* Jigsaw – groups master a subject then a regroup to teach peers
* Brainwriting – collaborative brainstorming
* Speed dating – pairs learn a concept then rotate around the room in speed dating style and share what they learned. This could be done to introduce different resources.
* Problem-based learning – all groups are given same authentic problem or case-study and gather information to address it; should have a variety of possible outcomes/solutions

When managing group work: have goals, roles, worksheets and reminders

You do not have to be entertaining to be engaging.