Pre-lecture Activities

Pre-lecture activities get students engaged in the topic BEFORE the lecture starts and can help make connections between the topic and the real world.

- **Concept Maps/Brainstorming**
    - Give students a term or concept that relates to your lecture topic and ask them to brainstorm any words that they already associate it with. Have them create a map of the related terms in a simple web connecting back to the term/concept.
- **Free Association (Follow your brain around)**
    - Give students a term or concept that related to your lecture topic and have them "follow their brain around" – writing the **first** word that comes to mind, creating a chain of terms they've freely associated to each other. Fair warning, there may be no obvious connections and a fun way to pull the class together is to ask a few students what the last word they have written down is – everyone's will be different.
- **Daily News**
    - Pull a news story (short article or video) that is directly related to what you've been studying in class and have a quick discussion about it before beginning class. This grounds student learning in the real world.
- **Polling for Answers/Ideas/Predictions (PowerPoint)**
    - Create a textbox within your PowerPoint presentation that will allow you to ask your students a question, and type their answers/ideas/predictions as they say them directly within your presentation. **Here's a quick tutorial on how to set this up:**
        - 1. Right click on the PowerPoint **Toolbar/Ribbon** and click **Customize the Ribbon.** In the right-hand column, put a check box next to **Developer.**
        - 2. Select the slide where you want the textbox. In the Ribbon, click the **Developer tab.** Click the **Text Box control (abl)** then drag a rectangle for the text box on the slide.
        - 3. **Right click** the text box, and click **Property Sheet.** Set EnterKeyBehavior to **True** and MultiLine to **True**. If desired, click **Font** and then the "…" on the right to change the font and size.
- **Class Poll (Acorn → iPal)**
    - Using Acorn's polling activity you can set up a series of questions, each with it's own selection of possible answers, and ask students to answer at the start of class. This is a great **anticipation activity** and you can return to the question at the end of class, when you've further discussed the topic, and see if they'd like to change their answers.
- **Quick Write**
    - Give students a writing topic (a question, comment, quote) and ask them to write for one or two minutes – the only rule is they have to keep their hands moving (no thinking, just writing). You can collect these at the end of class as an exit slip if you like.

Mid-Lecture Activities

Mid-lecture activities give your students a brain break from passive listening, get students re-engaged in the material and provide an opportunity for practical application of the learning.

- **Focused Listening**
    - Ask your students a question and give them a short amount of time to write or brainstorm a possible answer, then show a quick video or lecture that answers the question. Have an open discussion about what they anticipated versus what they learned.
- **Prediction (ACORN → Feedback)**
    - This is an **anticipation activity** for lectures covering material that builds on itself. Pause partway through the lecture and ask students to write down what they think will come next.
- **Links**
    - Give students two terms/concepts/word and ask them to guess how they're connected. This is an anticipatory activity that has the added bonus of providing a safe space for them to be wrong without consequences.
- **Think-Pair-Share**
    - Ask students a question and ask them to reflect on it and write down some possible answers. After a minute or so, have them pair up (or form a small group) with a neighbour and discuss what they've written. After another minute ask them to share what they've come up with.
- **Mythbusters**
    - Are there common misconceptions about something you teach? Do you always have to do some "unlearning" of what students think they know? Start getting to the bottom of things by giving students a statement that is commonly misunderstood and ask them to vote whether they believe it is a fact or a myth, then discuss what is true and debunk any myths.

Post-Lecture (Closure) Activities

Post-lecture activities summarize the learning that occurred and connect the beginning of the lecture to the end and to the course at large.

- **Exit Slips:** An exit slip can be anything you want to collect from students at the end of class
  - **Questions I still have**
    - Ask students to write any "Questions they still have" on a slip of paper after the lecture. You can then review these questions and answer them next class.
  - **Stump your Neighbour**
    - Have students work in pairs at the end of class to write difficult questions about the material that was covered in class. They can drop them off as exit slips when they leave, and these give you a good indication of your students' understanding of the critical components of your lecture, and may provide you with some good assessment questions for future test.
  - **Summarize the last lecture/reading**
    - Give students a minute or two to summarize the main points of your lecture of any other resources they were supposed to consult.
  - **Listing**
    - Have students list the properties of the topic that was covered.
  - **Give me an example**
    - Have students provide a concrete example of something discussed in class.
  - **In Your Experience**
    - Ask students to reflect how what they learned relates to their past experiences.
  - **How do you feel about…**
    - Ask students to reflect on what they learned and share their opinion.
- **Note Check**
  - Give students five minutes at the end of class to compare notes with their neighbours.