

RTC Faculty Focus

December 2009 (Vol. 8, No. 5)

Published by the RTC Library Staff



Renton Technical College

Make it Active, Make it Fun!

Active learning is anything that students do in the classroom other than sitting and listening to an instructor lecture on the program/class content. Research studies show that students actively engaged in learning will remember more than those passively listening to information. They also show that students learn more if lectures are short (no more than 20 minutes without some kind of activity). Below are some websites from librarians **Laura Staley** and **Debbie Crumb** to help liven up your classroom and actively engage your students.

Professional Development Module on Active Learning

<http://www.texascollaborative.org/activelearning.htm>

Very comprehensive website which includes info on research about active learning plus lots of links to many other sources. From Diane Starke of El Paso Community College.

Active Learning for the College Classroom

<http://www.calstatela.edu/dept/chem/chem2/Active/>

This excellent site offers 29 tips and strategies for creating an active learning college classroom. From California State University At Los Angeles.



Note Taking Systems

<http://sas.calpoly.edu/asc/ssl/notetaking.systems.html>

Good note taking requires students to engage with the material, and thus is a good active learning technique. This site describes the five different note taking methods and lists the advantages and disadvantages of each technique. From California Polytechnic State University.



Strategies for Reading Comprehension - KWL

<http://www.readingquest.org/strat/kwl.html>

Students need good reading skills to understand their materials. KWL – short for Know, Want, Learned offers a strategy to help them interact with their materials. They write down what they know, what they want to know, or will know, and then they write down what they learned. This provides a framework they will use to understand what they will learn (K), focus on what they want to get from the readings (W), and finally the results of their effort – what they learned (L). From ReadingQuest.org. This is also a RATs routine!

Learning and Comprehension

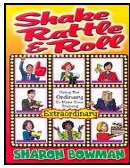
<http://appl003.lsu.edu/cas/learningjourney.nsf/index>

Students need good listening skills to interact with lectures and class discussion. The first eleven slides of this resource offer an excellent section on listening skills. Chose "Guest Entry", then "Notetaking and Comprehension". From Louisiana State University.

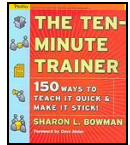


RTC Library Materials on Active Learning

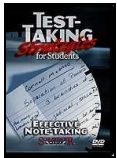
Call the RTC Library at ext. 2331 or visit <http://rtc.edu/library> for more info about materials on active learning.



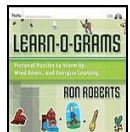
Bowman, Sharon L. *Shake Rattle & Roll: Using the Ordinary to Make Your Training Extraordinary*. Glenbrook, NV: Bowperson Pub, 2003. RTC Library call number: **658.3124 BOWMAN 2003**



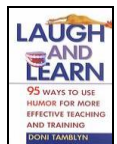
Bowman, Sharon L. *The Ten-Minute Trainer: 150 Ways to Teach It Quick and Make It Stick!* San Francisco: Pfeiffer, 2005. RTC Library call number: **658.3124 BOWMAN 2005**



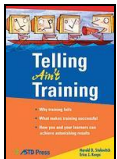
Center City Film & Video (Firm), and Schlessinger Media. *Effective note-taking*. Test-taking strategies for students. Wynnewood, PA: Schlessinger Media, 2005. DVD RTC Library call number: **MEDIA 371.30281 EFFECTI 2005n**



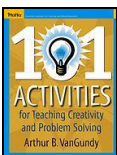
Roberts, Ron. *Learn-O-Grams: Pictorial Puzzles to Warm Up, Wind Down, and Energize Learning*. Pfeiffer essential resources for training and HR professionals. San Francisco: Pfeiffer, 2007. RTC Library call number: **371.337 ROBERTS 2007**



Tamblyn, Doni. *Laugh and Learn: 95 Ways to Use Humor for More Effective Teaching and Training*. New York: AMACOM, 2003. RTC Library call number: **658.3124 TAMBLYN 2003**



Stolovitch, Harold D., and Erica J. Keeps. *Telling Ain't Training*. Alexandria, VA: ASTD, 2002. RTC Library call number: **658.3124 STOLOV 2002**



VanGundy, Arthur B. *101 Activities for Teaching Creativity and Problem Solving*. San Francisco: Pfeiffer/Wiley, 2005. RTC Library call number: **658.31244 VANGUND 2005**

We Need Your Contributions and Suggestions!

In the upcoming months we plan to feature info about **cooperative/collaborative peer learning, assessment, testing and grading**. Please contact newsletter editor, [Debbie Crumb](mailto:Debbie.Crumb@rtc.edu), with your tips, great websites and suggestions. To access past issues, go to the Library's website at <http://rtc.edu/library>, click on **Services and Information**, then **Library Publications**, then **Recent issues published by RTC Library**, and finally on the desired format (**PDF** or **Word**).



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