CAE’s Tier I Teaching Excellence Workshop

Implementation of Lecture Tutorials

Ed Prather & Gina Brissenden
Think-Pair-Share: A Revised "How-To" Guide

Faculty often ask us what they can do to "get out of lecture mode" in their classrooms. After completing a CAE Teaching Excellence Workshop, participants commonly report back that Think-Pair-Share is the technique they plan to try first. We agree it's a great place to start! So how do you effectively implement Think-Pair-Share in the classroom? Through years of classroom experimentation, we've come up with a set of steps and phrases we find motivate students to earnestly engage with your TPS.

More >>

Teaching Excellence Workshops >>
Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars >>
Astrolmer@CAE >>
Who Teaches Astro 101? >>

>> More Teaching Strategies

Not Reading to Help You
Have a Cool Summer While Preparing for Fall
In our Teaching Excellence Workshops, we mention many articles and books worth reading—or, as we like to tell our students, articles and books "worth knowing"—related... More >>

Lecture-Tutorials: A How-To Guide
In This Month's Teaching Strategy, we are highlighting our expanded Lecture-Tutorials How-To Guide with a more comprehensive set of guidelines originally published... More >>

Think-Pair-Share: A Revised "How-To" Guide
Faculty often ask us what they can do to "get out of lecture mode" in their classrooms. After completing a CAE Teaching Excellence Workshop, participants commonly... More >>

Additional Teaching Strategies >>

>> Seeing the Universe through NASA's Eyes

NASA's Image of the Day Gallery
Light Toned Deposit In the Aureum Chaos Region on Mars
The High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera aboard NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter acquired this closeup image of a light-toned deposit in Frasassi Chasma, a 386 kilometer (238 mile) wide area in the eastern part of Valles Marineris, on Jan. 15, 2015, at 2:51 p.m. local Mars time... Read More >>
Teaching Excellence Workshops

Since 2004, CAE workshops have reached 3,554 participants from all 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico, Canada, South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Workshops Locations
Click a location to register for a specific workshop

- Fall/Winter 2014/2015
  1. Jamestown, North Carolina
     Regional Teaching Exchange
     October 4, 2014
  2. College Park, Maryland
     New Faculty Workshop
     November, 2014
  3. Seattle, Washington
     Tier I CATS
     January 3-4, 2015

- Spring/Summer 2015
  4. East Lansing, Michigan
     Regional Teaching Exchange
     April 10, 2015
  5. Oxnard, California
     Regional Teaching Exchange
     May 2, 2015
  6. Orangeburg, South Carolina
     Tier I CATS
     June 13-14, 2015
  7. College Park, Maryland
     New Faculty Workshop
     June 22-25, 2015
  8. Honolulu, Hawaii
     Tier I Special Topic
     August 4, 2015

- Fall/Winter 2015/2016
  12. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
      Tier I CATS
      September 26-27, 2015
  13. Jamestown, North Carolina
      Regional Teaching Exchange
      October 3, 2015
  14. Everett, Washington
      Regional Teaching Exchange
      October 17, 2015
  15. College Park, Maryland
      New Faculty Workshop
      November, 2015
  16. Kissimmee, Florida
      Tier I
      January 3-4, 2016
Workshop Materials for Past Participants

1. Images from Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, Third Edition
   Here you will find individual .jpg versions of all the artwork in Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, Third Edition. You will also find Power Point slides of each image grouped by sections in the book.
   - Images from Lecture-Tutorials for Introductory Astronomy, Third Edition (Zip, 41.09 MB)

2. Classroom Materials
   - A-B-C-D Voting Card (PDF, 115 KB)

3. Radio Curriculum
   - Lecture-Tutorial: Rotation, Vibration, and Synchrotron Radiation — Astronomical Interactions of Light and Matter (DOCX, 928 KB)
   - Lecture Slides: Rotation, Vibration, and Synchrotron Radiation — Astronomical Interactions of Light and Matter (PPTX, 3.94 MB)
   - Assessment Questions: Rotation, Vibration, and Synchrotron Radiation — Astronomical Interactions of Light and Matter (DOCX, 695 KB)

4. Unpublished Ranking Tasks
   - Apparent & Absolute Magnitude
     - Activity 1 (PDF, 151 KB)
     - Activity 2 (PDF, 78 KB)
     - Activity 3 (PDF, 80 KB)
     - Activity 4 (PDF, 70 KB)
   - Doppler Shift
     - Activity 1 (PDF, 145 KB)
     - Activity 2 (PDF, 72 KB)
     - Activity 3 (PDF, 70 KB)
     - Activity 4 (PDF, 68 KB)
   - Gravity
     - Activity 1 (PDF, 95 KB)
     - Activity 2 (PDF, 345 KB)
     - Activity 3 (PDF, 64 KB)
     - Activity 4 (PDF, 287 KB)
     - Activity 5 (PDF, 386 KB)
     - Activity 6 (PDF, 74 KB)
     - Activity 7 (PDF, 116 KB)
NSF: Collaboration of Astronomy Teaching Scholars (CATS)

- Leilani Arthurs, UNL
- Duncan Brown, Syracuse Univ.
- Sanlyn Buxner, Univ. of Arizona
- David Consiglio, Bryn Mawr College
- Tim Chambers, U Michigan
- Steve Desch, Guilford Tech. CC
- Doug Duncan, CU Boulder
- Jeffrey Eckenrode, Pacific Science CTR
- Tom English, Guilford Tech. CC
- John Feldmeier, Youngstown State Univ.
- Amy Forestell, SUNY New Paltz
- Rica French, MiraCosta College
- Adrienne Gauthier, Dartmouth
- Pamela Gay, SIU-Edwardsville
- Dennis Hands, High Point Univ.
- Kevin Hardegree-Ullman, University of Toledo
- Melissa Hayes-Gehrke, Univ. of Maryland
- Seth Hornstein, CU Boulder
- David Hudgins, Rockhurst Univ.
- Chris Impey, Univ. of Arizona
- Jessica Kapp, Univ. of Arizona
- John Keller, Cal Poly SLO
- Julia Kregenow, Penn State
- Michelle Wooten, Univ of Alabama
- Kevin Lee, UNL & NSF
- Patrick Len, Cuesta College
- Chris Lintott, Univ. of Oxford
- Michael LoPresto, Henry Ford CC
- Daniel Loranz, Truckee Meadows CC
- Julie Lutz, Univ. of Washington
- Danny Martino, Santiago Canyon College
- Benjamin Mendelsohn, West Valley College
- Ed Montiel, Louisiana State University
- Peter Newbury, Univ. of British Columbia
- Lee Powell, UN Kearney
- Matthew Price, Ithaca College
- Jordan Raddick, Johns Hopkins Univ.
- Alex Rudolph, Cal Poly - Pomona
- Travis Rector, Univ. of Alaska
- Paul Robinson, Westchester CC
- Wayne Schlingman, Ohio State
- Sébastien Cormier, San Diego College
- Colin Wallace, UNC
- Kathryn Williamson, NRAO
- James Wysong Jr., Hillsborough CC
- Todd Young, Wayne St. College
Getting Our “Challenges” on the Table

• Time, time, time!
• Department support
• Teaching resources
• Etc…

The REAL challenge is IMPLEMENTATION!!!!
What Can I do Besides Lecture to Engage Students in their Learning?

- Ask students questions (not all questions are equal)
- In-class writing (with or without discussion)
  - Muddiest Point
  - Summary of Today’s Main Points
  - Writing Reflections
- Use interactive videos, demonstrations, animations, and simulations
- Think-Pair-Share or PeerInstruction
- Small Group Interactions
  - Concept Maps
  - Case Studies
  - Sorting Tasks
  - Ranking Tasks
  - Lecture-Tutorials
- Student Debates (individual/group)
- Whole Class Discussions
Lecture-Tutorials

Instructional strategies designed to get your students thinking deeply about astronomy everyday ..and in almost any class setting.
Lecture-Tutorials

Design Criteria:

• Post Lecture Activity
• Each LT should address a main topic commonly taught in Astro 101
• Require no equipment
• Require only about 10-15 minutes to complete
• Start with questions accessible to most students following a lecture
• Target students’ conceptual and reasoning difficulties
• Use multiple representations to increase students’ discipline fluency
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Instructional Framing: Post-lecture, pencil and paper activities, that use a Socratic dialogue-driven, highly-structured collaborative learning methodology to help students elicit, confront and resolve their naïve beliefs and reasoning difficulties, and improve their critical thinking skills and develop scientifically robust conceptual models.


**Student 1:** The phase of the Moon depends on how the Moon, Sun, and Earth are aligned with one another. During some alignments only a small portion of the Moon's surface will receive light from the Sun, in which case we would see a crescent Moon.

**Student 2:** I disagree. The Moon would always get the same amount of sunlight; it's just that in some alignments Earth casts a larger shadow on the Moon. That's why the Moon isn't always a full Moon.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STAR</th>
<th>Wavelength of Absorption line</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>656 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>658 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>647 nm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Figure 2a:**

**Figure 2b:**

**Figure 2c:**
Idealized Classroom Implementation

• Professor lectures for approximately 20 minutes on core ideas of the topic to prepare students for working on the activity learning activity.

• Students are posed conceptually challenging questions on the presented lecture material to set the stage for the collaborative learning activity to come.

• Class is divided into pairs or small groups and instructed to work collaboratively and reach consensus on the questions presented during the activity.

• Instructor circulates through the room listening to student conversations and works with student groups only if hands are raised.
Lecture-Tutorials

Let's Do One!!

Center for Astronomy Education
Idealized Classroom Implementation

• Instructor provides time-stamps approximately every 5-8 minutes to maintain overall class progress.

• When approximately 70% of students are on last part/page of the activity, instructor asks students to raise their hand if they are on the last part/page or done, then says “You’ve got a few more minutes.”

• Instructor “debriefs” the activity interactively, working with the students to highlight the difficulties in reasoning and common errors.

• Instructor returns to lecture mode on next course topic.
The Devil is in the Implementation!

• How do you motivate students to do in-class activities - at the beginning of your course and throughout the semester?

• Why does it matter if the students talk to each other and come to consensus?

• What do you need to do, prior to creating your lecture, so that you create an effective PRE-activity lecture? What should your lecture include? What should your lecture not include?

• What do you do while your students are doing the in-class activity?

• How do you manage and communicate time limits while students are doing your in-class activities?

• How do you estimate how long the activity will take?
The Devil is in the Implementation!

- When/Why should you ask a group member to read the question they are working on aloud to you?
- When/Why should you answer a group’s question with another question?
- When/Why should you ask one member of a group what the other student in their group wrote or what they were thinking when they wrote their answer?
- When/Why should you pause the entire class to discuss a particular question?
- When/Why should you ask your students to work with a different partner?
- What do you do with a group that is clearly not working together?
- What do you do with a group of students that is not even working?
The Devil is in the Implementation!

• Is it okay to end the in-class activities even if everyone is not done?
• What are effective and in-effective ways to debrief in-class activities?
• How do you make your students realize what activity content they are accountable for on the exam and whether or not they need to do some more studying?
• When or why should you, or should you not, provide solutions to in-class activities?
The Results from our Research to Validate the Effectiveness of Lecture-Tutorials.

The Results from our Research to Validate the Effectiveness of Lecture-Tutorials: Using Clickers.

Clickers as Data Gathering Tools and Students’ Attitudes, Motivations, and Beliefs on Their Use in this Application, Prather, E. E., and Brissenden, G., Astronomy Education Review, 8(1), 2009.
The Results from our Research to Validate the Effectiveness of Ranking Tasks

( N ~ 100 )

Ranking Tasks: Gender Effect?

Percent Correct

( N ~ 100 )

Ranking Tasks benefited both groups equally.

Female

Male

Pretest

Post-Lecture

Post-Ranking Tasks

Female

Male
Ranking Tasks: High vs. Low Pretests Groups?

Both groups benefited equally.

Upper Median Group:
- Pretest: 55%
- Post-Lecture: 64%
- Post-Ranking Tasks: 76%

Lower Median Group:
- Pretest: 11%
- Post-Lecture: 59%
- Post-Ranking Tasks: 76%

(N ~ 100)