

CME Teaching and Learning Strategies



CME attendees...

1. Seek out learning activities to enhance their own knowledge, often to meet a specific need.
2. Are self-directed and autonomous learners.
3. Learn best when the content delivered is contextual and relevant.
4. Prefer to actively engage in the learning process...not just by listening but also by “doing.”
5. Enjoy drawing upon their rich personal and professional experiences as a way of contributing to the classroom learning experience.
6. Value the information shared by fellow participants.
7. Want to immediately apply newly-acquired knowledge and skills to real-world problems or scenarios.

Active learning strategies...

Active learning is a planned series of actions or events that invite CME participants to process, apply, interact and share experiences as part of their educational development. The interactive components support the goals and educational objectives of the CME course.

- Active learning means developing and implementing planned activities to engage the participants as partners in the learning process.
- When active learning strategies are used, the participants are reading, talking, writing, describing, touching, interacting, listening and reflecting on the information and the materials presented.
- Built-in time for reflection enhances learning retention.

Implications for CME course delivery:

- Select active learning strategies that support the educational goals and objectives of the course.
- Select strategies that will be the most comfortable to implement.
- Remember that most active learning strategies take longer to implement than initially projected. Allow adequate time for successful delivery.

Examples of active learning strategies...

Ice Breaker Activities

1. KWL Activity (K= what the participant already KNOWS about the subject; W= WHAT they want to know; L= how they want to use what they LEARN)
2. Puzzles
3. Agendas
4. Flow Sheets
5. Pre-Tests
6. Surveys
7. Etc.

Hands-on Activities

1. Props
2. Role playing
3. Hands-on simulations
4. Self-assessments
5. Etc.

Discussion Approaches

1. Case-based discussions, with/without mock data included
2. Small group breakouts; peer dyads
3. Problem-solving exercises
4. Worked exercises
5. Structured question and answer component
 - a. Audience Response System (clickers)
 - b. Hand-raising, voting
 - c. Facilitated discussion
6. Post-course blogs
7. Many other approaches possible...