

Active Learning: Listening Teams

This activity is a way to help students stay focused and alert during a lecture-based lesson. Listening teams create small groups responsible for clarifying the class material.

The Activity

- Divide students into four teams, giving each team an assignment. Each team will do the following assignments after the lecture material is covered:
 - ✓ Questioners: This team will ask at least two questions.
 - ✓ Agreers: This team will discuss at least two points they agree with (or found helpful) and explain why.
 - ✓ Nay-sayers: This team will discuss at least two points they disagreed with (or found unhelpful) and explain why.
 - ✓ Example-givers: This team will give specific examples or application of the material.
- Present your lecture-based lesson. After it is over, give teams a few moments to complete their assignments.
- Call on each team to discuss their assigned task.

Variations

- Create other roles. For example, ask a team to summarize the lecture-based lesson, or ask a team to create questions that test students' understanding of the material.
- Give out questions in advance that will be answered in the lecture-based lesson. Challenge students to listen for the answers. The team that can answer the most questions wins.

References

Silberman, M. (1996). *Active learning: 101 strategies to teach any subject*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon. p. 72. For more active learning ideas, check this title in our CTL library.