

Don't teach against your conscience. Don't align yourself with texts, people, or rules that hurt children; resist them as creatively and effectively as you can, whether through humor or developing alternative curricula. I don't believe there is a single technique or curriculum that leads to success. Consequently, pick and choose, retool and restructure the best of what you find and make it your own.

HERBERT KOHL, EDUCATOR AND AUTHOR

Below are at least four ideas that will immediately engage your students in more active learning.

1. The One-Minute Paper

- Ask a relevant question about your topic or content
- Students write for a period of time determined by the teacher (5 to 10 minutes is usually enough)
- It creates an opportunity to be considered as a person, to have each students' voice heard and helps establish a relationship with both peers and faculty

How I might use the one-minute paper: _____

2. Draw for Understanding

- Ask students to create a drawing, chart or diagram to help explain an idea, process or relationship
- Students share their drawing and discuss it with classmates
- Drawing helps students to "fill the well" so that they have something to draw from when it comes to class discussions

How I might use drawing for understanding: _____

3. The Power of a Picture

- A picture really does speak a thousand words
- Use a picture to initiate a discussion, to "hook" students' attention
- Images stay in students' memories longer and they create a link to the information discussed in class

How I might use the power of a picture: _____

4. Create and Use Groups

- Groups should have a clear focus and purpose
- Use a strategy to make each group member accountable
- Groups improve:
 - Communication between student-teacher and student-student
 - Race relations between different races and ethnicities
 - Content mastery
 - On-task behavior
 - Academic achievement

How I might create and use a group: _____