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This Active Learning Workshop was different than I expected and as a result, I learned several new skills that otherwise wouldn't have stuck with me. Upon entering the room, I expected to receive a handout, and listen to the instructor give us ideas about ways to actively involve our students in their learning. What I soon found though, was that we were going to learn the objectives of this workshop very ACTIVELY! The instructor *used* the active learning techniques he was teaching about, which allowed us to experience the benefits from the viewpoints of our students. In this reflection, I will discuss some of the new skills I learned, both in this workshop and in the assignments from Mod 3, and how they challenged some of my previous assumptions about teaching and learning.

I have used active learning techniques before in my teaching, but most were used when I taught high school students. I assumed (probably because most my college experience was lecture based), that college students who were presumably in my class by "choice", didn't need or want the environment of active learning as much as my "less motivated" high school students did. I now find this to be untrue, especially in general education courses. In this workshop, I got a huge reminder that my Math 1010 and Math 1050 students are asking themselves, "What's in this class for me? Is it just another hoop I have to jump through?" As the instructor, it's my job to answer that question. What I want my students to get out of my general ed. math classes is to learn to think critically, communicate effectively, and develop better decision making and reasoning skills. I can't expect that my students will achieve these objectives simply by listening to me lecture. I need to encourage communication between class members through activities, experiments and discussions. Students won't usually engage much with each other about the course topics on their own. I'm pretty sure I wouldn't have discussed much with the guy sitting next to me in the workshop if the instructor wouldn't have provided the opportunity to do so. This really helped me see that it is my job as the teacher to create an environment where students feel comfortable actively learning from each other, because that truly is the way the material will become meaningful.

One skill I particularly liked from the workshop was to help students recall information by giving them hand motions, and having them come up with their own. It was a fun and easy way to review the material we learned that day, and could also be used when reviewing for an exam.

This module and workshop have given me ideas and motivation to make my classroom an active learning environment. I am excited to implement these teaching methods. It will be pushing me outside my comfort zone, and I hope it will do the same to my students.