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## Reflections On Active Learning Approaches

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**Student Engagement** - Active Learning approaches help me to engage more and understand information better. They help me take control of my learning process. I find absorbing information is challenging but using active learning, helps me to gain more knowledge, enjoy the process of learning and remember it after learning.

**Graduate Attributes** - Active Learning helps me develop TUS Graduate Attributes including: 'work readiness and of the whole person' because we will be required to be adaptable and able to continually communicate with different people. We learn a lot of these skills from groupwork, problem solving and presentation skills.

**Critical Thinking** - Active Learning strategies therefore help me expand my critical thinking, teamwork, problem solving and my adaptability. I struggled with these especially during the COVID 19 pandemic and how I experienced remote online learning for a whole year. On returning to campus this year, my lecturers have been using more active learning strategies and these have given me new skills and confidence as a learner.

**Visual and Audio Resources** - Having access to recordings of lectures helps a lot because it helps to refresh my mind on what was covered and helps when doing assignments. Having the mix of power-point presentations, tutorials and videos helped to keep students engaged in class as the change between different methods of teaching kept everyone involved. It was also beneficial for students who learn in different ways. I learn better from hearing and taking notes on the topics.

**Lecturer Support** - Having access to lecturers and more resources to help with assignments is crucial. The face to face support from lecturers, now that we are back on campus and having continuous assessments has been a positive development. This has helped me a lot as exams are difficult for me. Having more continuous assessment has helped me gain more knowledge and also improve my grades.

**Group Work & Assignments** - Doing group assignments and having group discussions helps because it helps to expand on ideas and get new insights into topics

### Innovative assessments strategies that engage:

- Group assignments
- Individual and group presentations
- Doing competency work and not being based around the same thing
- Mind-maps, fish diagram etc to help plan assignments and exams out in short detail using the important parts
- Flashcards
- Having class/group discussions
- Being able to get help from lecturers when stuck or getting them try new learning strategies to help you understand
- Reflective pieces
- Doing quizzes
- Writing out words or phrases you do not understand when working and either asking for help or use the resources provided to you by the college
- Doing out a checklist on assignments/exams due and when completing an assignment have a checklist to check off that each part is completed

Overall, the 2021 Compendium of Active Learning Strategies for Student Engagement set out some really good strategies. Now that we have returned to face to face learning, these active learning strategies will be really helpful to students and teachers. This year the lecturers and staff in TUS have gone over and above to help students adjust to being on campus and help students learn using different active learning strategies from the Compendium.

I found the help and resources I received this year amazing and honestly, they have been so helpful. Having continuous assessment has helped a lot. I had not sat a college level exam since I started TUS two years ago. Many students feel it helps lecturers see how well they can do on assignments instead of exams.