



Making student-centered learning happen

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Atlas



The teacher must adopt the role of
facilitator not content provider.

— *Lev S. Vygotsky* —


AZ QUOTES

Student-centered learning...

- increases motivation
- promotes learning
- fosters peer-to-peer & faculty-to-student engagement
- increases consideration of diverse perspectives
- engages higher-order thinking skills

Objectives

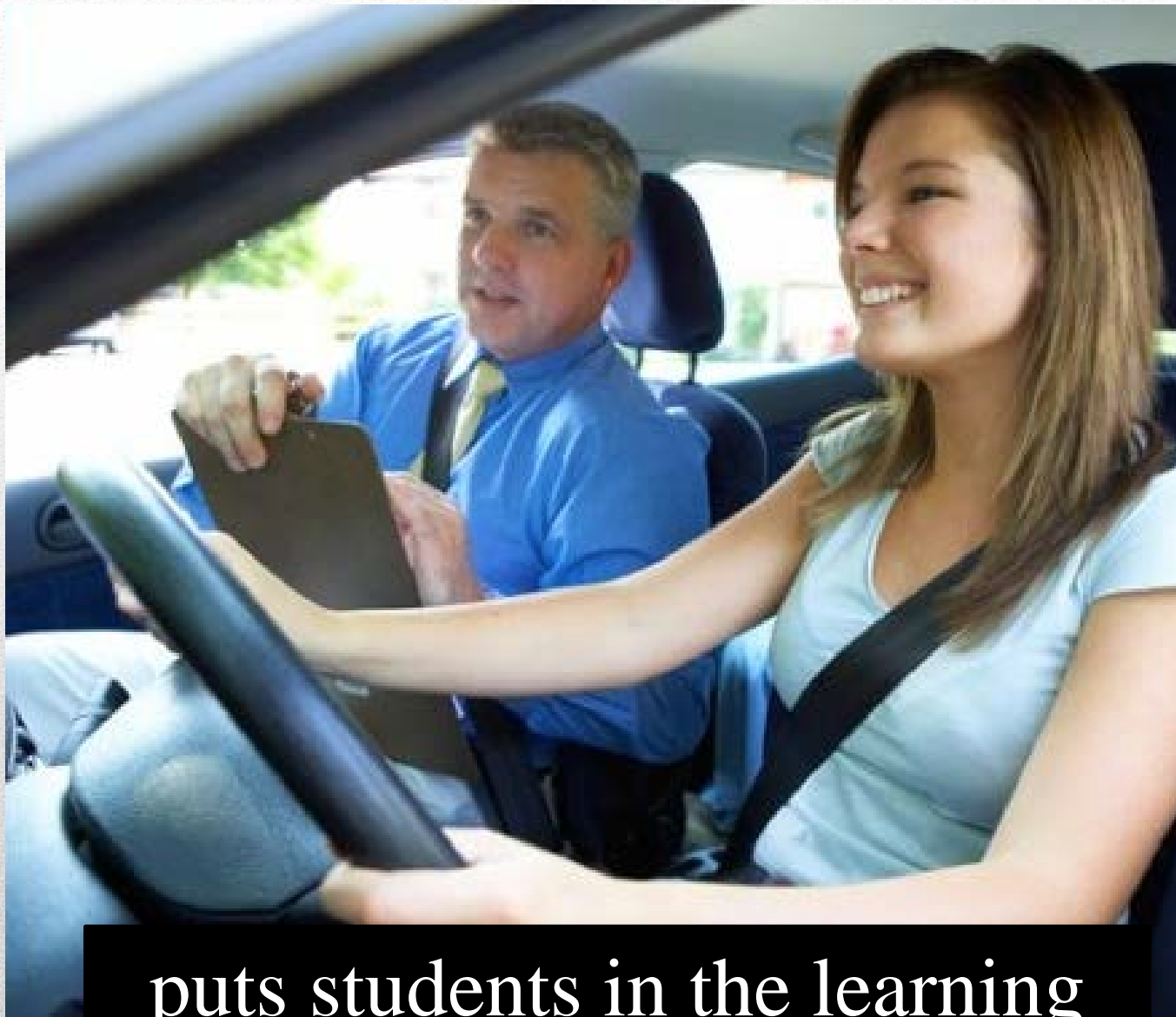
1. introduce the concept of student-centered learning
2. provide readily usable strategies/activities for implementation



What is student-centered learning?

Student-centered learning...

is an instructional
approach/philosophy
of practice



puts students in the learning
'driver's seat'

Student-centered learning...

gets students to
do things

fosters collaboration



Four main principles

- learning is customized
 - ‘doing’ is top priority
 - focus on group work/
collaboration
 - learner takes ownership
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Think, Pair, Share

- students reflect, jot notes
- discuss with a partner
- spokesperson shares summary with class
- debrief

Student-centered
learning strategies

Roundtable

- form small groups
- pose question/make statement
- students take turns writing answer/thoughts on ONE sheet of paper that is passed around the group
- spokesperson shares with class
- debrief

Student-centered
learning strategies

Corners

- place flipchart paper in corners/stations of room with a question or statement
- form small groups
- each group starts at a different corner/station; jots answer/reflection
- groups move through stations, expanding/reflecting on previous content

Student-centered
learning strategies

One-Minute Paper

- great for end of class or at start
- pose a question related to class topic (e.g. What do you take away from today's class?; Is there anything you aren't sure about?)
- students reflect in writing, anonymously

Student-centered
learning strategies

Speed Dating

- each student writes down one question
- each student sits facing another student
- one row stationary, other moves
- students take notes on answers they hear
- after 1-2 minutes, moving row moves down line to next student; repeat until back at original pairs
- at end, students share results of 'survey'; class discussion ensues

Student-centered
learning strategies

Flipped classroom

- assign task PRIOR to class (e.g. read textbook, article)
- next meeting, form small groups
- groups discuss what they learned from task
- educator identifies gaps in knowledge
- groups apply knowledge (e.g. case studies, scenarios)

Student-centered
learning strategies



COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS



#1: Too time-consuming

- use lecture notes as a starting point
- assign questions/tasks based on lecture notes
- fill in gaps using lecture notes

Remember: The idea is to take the burden off of you and transfer some of it to your students!



#2: Too little time, too much
content



#3: Classes are too large

Ask yourself:

- What are the learning objectives?
- What constraints am I dealing with?
- How will I structure the activity/task?
- When should the activity/task be presented?
- How will students share their ideas?
- Will students be evaluated?
- What planning do I require?
- What planning do students require?

Tips for implementation



Thank you!

Recommended Resources

- Barkely, E.F., Cross, K.P. & Howell Major, C. (2005). *Collaborative learning techniques: A handbook for college faculty*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
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