

Extending Smith's First Day Questions

Helping student buy-in to the flipped classroom

You can introduce students to TBL and why you are using it, with this mock Application Activity based on Gary Smith's activity from the National Teaching and Learning Forum Newsletter article *First-Day Questions for the Learner-Centered Classroom* (NTLF newsletter, 2008). The article asks the reader: "Thinking of what you want to get out of your college education and this course, which of the following is most important to you?"

- 1 Acquiring information (facts, principles, concepts)
- 2 Learning how to use information and knowledge in new situations
- 3 Developing life-long learning skills

The teachers will give time for intra-team discussion leading to a team decision. Then the teacher will pass out the TBL voting cards and ask the teams to simultaneously report by holding up the card that corresponds to their team's decision. Then you can facilitate a full class discussion contrasting the various team decisions. This activity both shows the students the mechanics of the Application Activity process and clearly surfaces differing student beliefs on what good classroom learning should look like. There is a wonderful way to extend this activity (Smith, 2013). At the end of the activity students are asked to revisit the items on the list and consider which of the items would be better achieved in class and which items could be achieved through individual study. They will quickly zero in on "acquiring information" as something they could do on their own. You can then revisit the format of TBL and show them that is exactly how TBL is structured, you acquire some information on your own and then come to class where we can work on higher order goals like application and life long learning skills.

References

Smith, G. (2008). First-Day Questions for the Learner-Centered Classroom. *National Teaching and Learning Forum Newsletter*. Retrieved from <http://www.ntlf.com/>

Smith, G. (2013, November) Selling Active Learning to Faculty Requires a Student Purchase, Too. Session presented at 38th Annual POD Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA.