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### Active Learning Reflection Paper

At the Adjunct Faculty Conference at SLCC on Saturday, Oct. 27, I attended an active learning session, led by David Bate. The session covered tools for increasing student engagement and response, ideas for lesson plans to create community, and strategies to make material accessible to reluctant students. The session was great for getting teachers involved in actually practicing the techniques right there and then, in the break-out session. Because the focus of my Master's degree was Teaching and Learning Methods, much of the session was review for me, but it was still a great reminder to use more and different active learning techniques than I regularly do.

The most memorable part of the session was the YouTube video on the Black Plague. Bates showed this video as an example of how using video, music, and repetition can help students retain information. While this was entertaining, and the "fleas on rats" line of the song is *still* stuck in my head, the best 'take away' I got from the session was a reminder to give one instruction or question at a time. Often in my teaching, I tend to get excited or start to rush, so I shower the students with many questions, such as "what did you learn from that? What did you enjoy or what was challenging for you?" In this active learning workshop, we were reminded to pose one question at a time, and wait for that response before posing the next question (or direction, if giving instructions). Bate also reminded us to make sure we get the students' attention – that all students are actually looking at us – before giving directions so they will hear us and we will not have to repeat ourselves as often. That was a great reminder for me and I've been consciously trying to implement that strategy since the workshop.

I found Bate's presentation to be entertaining, fun, and informative. It was nice to be reminded of strategies to refresh my regular repertoire. I especially appreciated the list of "Active Learning Recourses" at the back of his handout packet.