



JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
*of* PUBLIC HEALTH

# Strategies for Engaging Large Classes

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# Objectives

- ▶ After attending this session, participants will be able to
  - ▶ Understand the unique challenges to large-enrollment classes
  - ▶ Identify types of student engagement
  - ▶ Implement strategies to engage students based on your engagement goals
  - ▶ Explore approaches to course management that scaffolds engagement efforts

# Brainstorm 1

- ▶ What do you consider to be a large class?
- ▶ What about class size concerns you?



## Brainstorm 2

- ▶ What is the greatest challenge for students learning in large classes?



# The Big Picture

## Engagement Goals

Active Student Participation



Student-to-Student Discussion







Student-to-Faculty/ TA Communication



Student Collaboration



# Examples

Engagement Goal	Strategies	Tools
<p><b>Active Student Participation</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey/Poll/Clicker Questions</li> <li>2. One-Minute Paper</li> <li>3. Quick Concept Map</li> <li>4. Knowledge Check (formative assessment)</li> <li>5. Interactive demonstrations</li> <li>6. Back-Channel Communication</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clicker, Poll, Survey, Google Forms</li> <li>2. Discussion Forum, Quiz, VoiceThread</li> <li>3. Wiki, Discussions Forum, Google Drawings</li> <li>4. Quiz, Clicker, Poll, Survey</li> <li>5. LiveTalk, VoiceThread</li> <li>6. Twitter, Adobe Connect, Chatzy</li> </ol>
<p><b>Student-to-Student Discussion</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Think-Pair-Share</li> <li>2. Peer-Teaching and Evaluation</li> <li>3. Debate</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discussion Forum, LiveTalk Breakout Rooms</li> <li>2. VoiceThread, Discussion Forum, Wiki</li> <li>3. VoiceThread</li> </ol>
<p><b>Student-to-Faculty/TA Communication</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Announcements</li> <li>2. Individual and Group Feedback</li> <li>3. Class Discussion Highlights</li> <li>4. Weekly Digest</li> <li>5. Back-Channel Communication</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Announcements, Email to all students</li> <li>2. Email to specific individuals/groups, Quiz and Dropbox responses</li> <li>3. Discussion Forum</li> <li>4. Email to all students, Announcements</li> <li>5. Twitter, Adobe Connect, Chatzy</li> </ol>
<p><b>Student Collaboration</b></p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Group Presentation</li> <li>2. Group Report/Project</li> <li>3. Case Studies</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-3. Course Groups, VoiceThread, Wiki, Google Apps (docs, sheets, slides, drawings, etc.), Discussion Forum</li> <li>3. Online Library Group Folders</li> </ol>

# Lay the Foundation

- ▶ Be very clear and explicit in your syllabus and assignment instructions
- ▶ Rethink approaches to grading and develop a policy for grade disputes
- ▶ Importance of the TA role

# The First 5 Minutes...The Last Five Minutes

- ▶ *“They walk into our classes trailing all of the distractions of their complex lives” (Lang, J. 2016)*



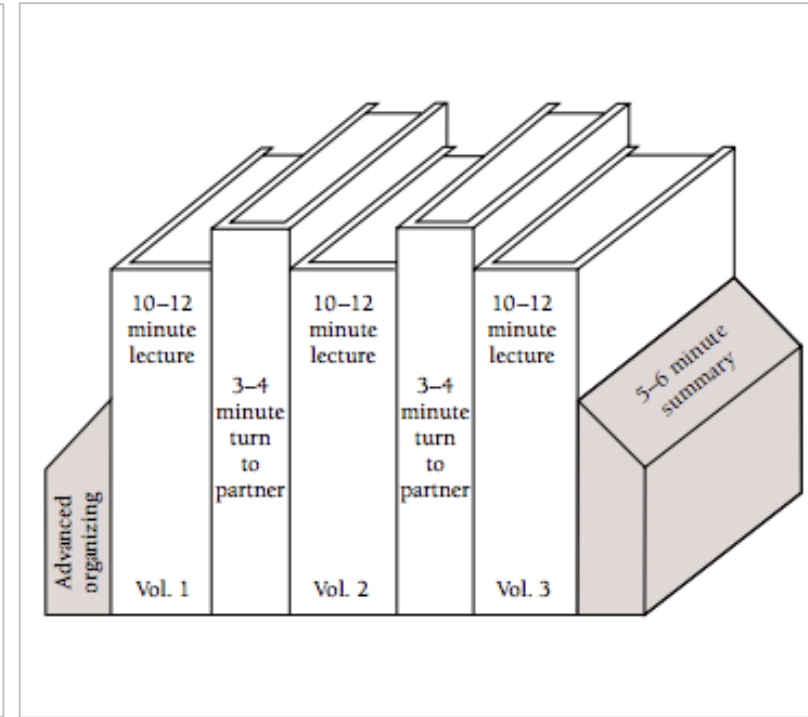
Image Source: Chronicle of Higher Ed (2016).



# Structuring the Class Session

► The “bookend approach” (Smith, 2000).

1. Explain / Direct
2. Question or Task
3. Mix of lecture and student work
4. Summary / Reflection



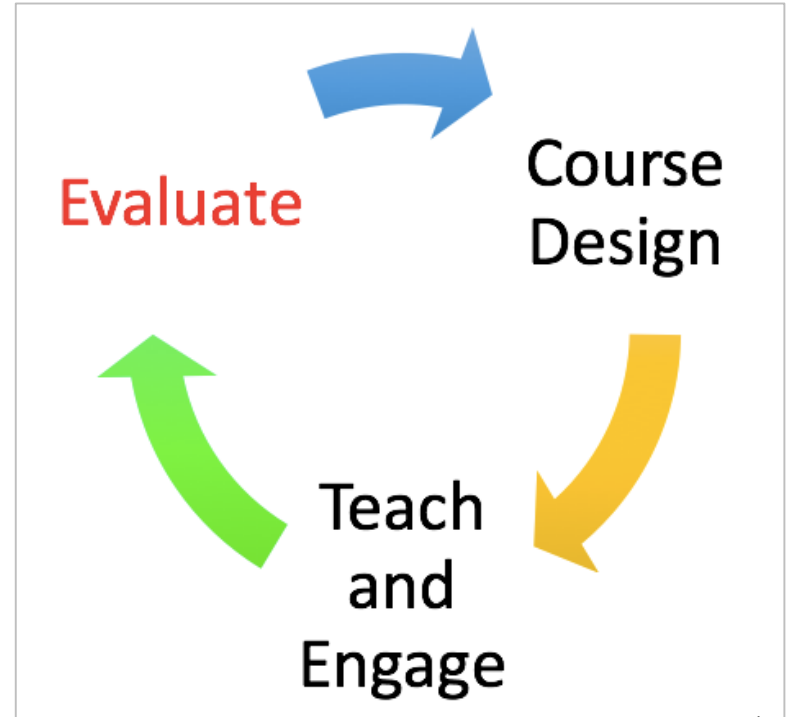
Source: Smith, K. (2000)



Let's look at a few scenarios...

# Evaluate what worked (and what didn't)

- ▶ CTL is here to help
- ▶ Something isn't working? Meet with your Instructional Designer



Questions?

Thank you!

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# References

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