Seven Steps to Active Learning

or

Tools of the Trade to Encourage Active Learning

1. Listen and observe more and lecture less (i.e., follow Scott Freeman’s example of less than 30% lecture).
2. Engage students on challenging open ended “real world” problems to demonstrate application of content and relevance of subject matter.
3. Use team based course projects to promote peer learning.
4. Use readings and video content to deliver course content.
5. Give students an opportunity to practice communication skills while demonstrating understanding by having them make class presentations on selected topics (e.g., project updates). Solicit critical feedback from student peers.
6. Overcome rigid classroom structures and get students out of their seats.
7. Take the focus off assessment and apply technology to create a broad sense of awareness of what students know and don’t know and to identify areas that may need clarification.