An Idea from NETI: Handouts with Gaps

Gregory Michna
Department of Mechanical Engineering
ASEE Best Practices October 14, 2014
Goal of the National Effective Teaching Institute

Promote effective teaching strategies by encouraging attendees to

• Use learning objectives to plan course materials/activities
• Incorporate inductive teaching methods
• Include active learning techniques
• Perform useful assessment and evaluation of learning
Active Learning

Students participating in class by doing something course-related other than watching and listening to the instructor and taking notes.
Why Active Learning?

• Get more student involvement
• Energize the class
• Get more responses to questions than the usual 2-3 people
• Promotes both short-term and long-term learning
Active Learning Examples

• In-Class Teams
• Think-Pair-Share
• Minute Paper
• TAPPS (Thinking Aloud Pair Problem-Solving)
• Many others...
But…

Active learning activities do take more time (slightly) in class than traditional lecturing. How can I cover all of the required material for the course?
Handouts with Gaps

• Turn some of your notes into handouts with gaps for students to fill in or questions for students to answer.
• Let students read through straightforward material by themselves, and when you get to a gap
  • Lecture on it
  • Use it as the basis for an in-class activity
  • Leave it as an exercise for the students to do after class