

## **Increasing student engagement in the Learning Studio**

The Learning Studios are collaborative spaces where active learning can occur in group pods. Maximise the opportunities available for active learning with these tips for engaging students in this learning space.

What is the student doing?	What is the situation?	What's important?	What to do?	Some ideas on how to do it	Got it!
Participating in a group activity using digital tools	Students share their group outcomes with tutorial group.	Students have clear instructions about the task, the tool/s to use and the outcomes format.	Prepare an activity sheet listing each step students need to take, with the tools they should use clearly stated.	Introduction to the new learning studios – Run sheet for facilitating student orientation in the learning studio  Introduction to the learning studios (student orientation) video  Student guide for the learning studio Kingswood or Parramatta	
Engaging in group discussions	Perform a role-play where each person takes a different perspective on a social issue.	Students have specific timeframes to allow full participation	Set a timer for all collaborative tasks and display it on the primary screen.	Online Timer  Teaching tips for student centred activities and assessment resource (coming soon)  10 steps to better student engagement	
Maintaining focus during group discussions	Solve a problem using prior knowledge that can be confirmed by evidence.	Students' progress productively throughout the activity	Walk from pod to pod (starting with the noisy / furthest ones) checking progress; assign a pod leader to manage turn-taking.	Small groups and discussions (Stanford university)  5 ways to make class discussions more exciting	
Listening to what others in their group are saying and can be heard	Jigsaw activity where students are working in their 'expert' groups.	Students are discussing and listening to other group members' ideas and suggestions without extraneous noise	Mute ceiling microphones during the activity until each group is ready to speak.	Central Control Deck Manual  Teaching tips for student centred activities and assessment resource (coming soon)	





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Avoiding distraction	Incoming calls & messages, off- topic discussion, social media use not relevant to the activity	Students use the lesson time effectively	Ask students to set their phones to silent, turn off social media alerts and keep volume levels on appropriate multimedia low.	From Distraction to Engagement: Wireless Devices in the Classroom  10 ways to promote student engagement	
Understanding appropriate behaviour is expected	Use your device to respond to a quiz about a topic; find a pair who has a different answer and discuss your position. At the end of the class, answer the question again and compare results.	Students correctly judge online etiquette and boundaries, and support each other in their learning	State clear expectations of behaviour and make the activity assessable. Explicitly advise students that any material on their account and/or device will be displayed to the class if shared to the COW or the main screen <i>BEFORE</i> they share it.	Introduction to the learning studios (student orientation) video  Online Netiquette (YouTube video)  Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy	
Handling variable experiences with the technology	Poor network connectivity, hardware or software failure.	Students develop problem- solving skills	Make sure you as the instructor have confidence in using all features in the learning space, and can help students become familiar with the environment (perhaps by running an orientation session).	Introduction to the learning studios (student orientation) video  Introduction to the learning studios (staff orientation) video  Services and facilities for current students – IT Resources	
Observation of good planning and structure modelled	Lesson is well planned ahead of time with instructions, resources and a Plan B available.	Students experience connectedness	Prepare for the lesson in advance and make sure your activities can be completed successfully in the time allocated. Use multiple short (10-20 minute) activities to maintain attention and make sure students can easily install any software they may need ahead of time.	Teaching Development Program (2016): Getting to know the Learning Studio  In-class activities and assessment for the flipped classroom (University of Waterloo)  Using active learning instructional strategies to create excitement and enhance learning	





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Gaining the full benefit of the affordances in the space	Lesson design is based on collaboration tools such as desk pods, writeable walls, document camera, and sharing software.		Plan your class to ensure that students:  • Use the desk pods to cluster in groups rather than spreading out through the room.  • Perform clear tasks that require active engagement including input from inquiry and shared output using the room features.  • Conduct themselves in line with clear expectations of classroom and online behaviour.	Teaching tips for student centred activities and assessment resource (coming soon)  Putting the activity into active learning strategies (workshop) (coming soon)	