

Guest Speaker, Andrea Buchholz at Fall 2019 Instructor Orientation

Title

Active Learning Through Structured Spontaneity: In-Class Strategies to Engage Generation Z

Abstract

Students in 2019 are used to learning by inductive discovery and their attention shifts quickly from task to task. That works out well because these are characteristics ideally suited to learning activities based on structured spontaneity. Such activities, designed to engage visual and verbal learners, help develop collaborative and active listening skills and most importantly, can result in active learning. They also engage you, the instructor, such that the classroom becomes an environment in which you and your students collaborate, in real-time, to explore and co-create content. During this interactive session, Andrea will demonstrate in-class learning activities based on principles underlying improvisational theatre, in which the audience and players collaborate to co-create scenes.

Biography

Andrea is a Professor of applied nutrition in the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition at the University of Guelph, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate clinical nutrition and clinical skills. Her research program focuses on obesity, dairy consumption of Canadians, and relevant to the University of Guelph-Humber Instructor Orientation event, Andrea is also active in the scholarship of teaching and learning.

Andrea holds several teaching distinctions. She is a 3M National Teaching Fellow, awarded by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, and a recipient of a teaching excellence award from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. She is also a YMCA-YWCA Woman of Distinction in Education, Training and Mentorship.

In her spare time, Andrea's is one-half of a St. John Ambulance therapy dog team, along with Dylan, her 11-year-old poodle cross, and is a comedic improviser with a Waterloo-based improv troupe.