

# ACTIVATING STUDENTS IN LARGE-ENROLMENT COURSES: SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP

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## ABSTRACT

The situation: in class, you allow access to all kinds of materials which may support and facilitate the solution of a problem you have posed: students' notes, teacher's manuscript, textbooks, handbooks, internet access (smart phones) - you even present the contents relevant on a screen while the students should try to work out the problem.

You wait for the start of an open discussion with first suggestions on the way to proceed and what to look up. The students' reaction: don't move. Avoid eye contact. Freeze. Just wait what is going to happen - sooner or later the teacher will lose his patience and start to present the solution by himself.

It seems all relevant study techniques - curiosity, open discussions, use of information sources and tools - are buried; even worse: not just the techniques are invisible, the students themselves try to be invisible. Quite obviously, a black hole seems to swallow all class traceless.

The workshop shall collect experiences and search for ways out of the dilemma. Do you confirm the above observations? What can be done about the phenomenon described? Can we fight the black hole in class, and if so: how, or should learning of study techniques be shifted to extra courses outside -before- university studies?

What measures are taken at universities, and how successful are they?