Cultivating Engagement: Active Learning in Large Classrooms

PRME Pedagogy Webinar Series; June 2025

PRME an initiative of the United Nations Global Compact

INDEED VERTIGO

Workshop Summary

In our *Active Learning in Large Classrooms* workshop, we **reconnected** with the **PRME Pedagogy frameworks** and dove into understanding **why active learning is crucial** even in large classroom settings.

We explored various **playful and scalable techniques** for engaging large groups, including **interactive polling tools** like **sli.do** to gauge sentiments, using AI tools like **Perplexity** to create games to practice intellectual humility, and using digital tools like **Mentimeter** or **Padlet** to develop mini-lessons on various concepts like ESG metrics, Net Present Value, and customer segmentation.

We explored and practiced **intellectual humility**—the ability to recognize the limits of our knowledge and stay open to others' perspectives—while considering how to foster it in our students.

We left equipped with a **range of practical tools** and a **renewed understanding** of how to **foster both active learning and intellectual humility in our own large classroom environments.**
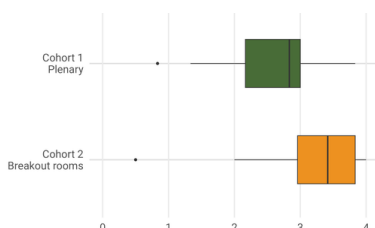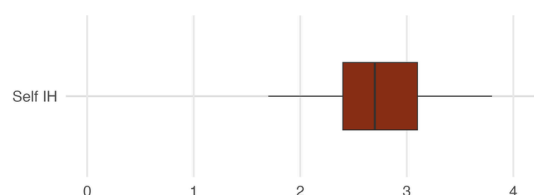
Who Participated?

There were **98 participants in the pre-survey** and **80 in the post-survey**. Among the 80 individuals who completed the post-survey, 70 participants chose to share their demographic information. These 70 participants represented **62 different universities**, with one individual opting not to provide their university affiliation.

Intellectual humility, the willingness to recognize the limits of one's own knowledge and remain open to new or conflicting ideas, was assessed both before and after the demonstration activity: participants rated their own intellectual humility before an activity, and afterward, one of the two cohorts completed a group-level reflection after entering breakout rooms, while the other did so after a cohort-wide plenary.

Self-Ratings of IH

Participants saw themselves as moderately intellectually humble going into the activity.

mean **2.74**   range **0-4**   standard deviation **0.48**

Self IH

0   1   2   3   4

Cohort 1 Plenary

Cohort 2 Breakout rooms

0   1   2   3   4

Participants rated their group as moderately intellectually humble. Cohort 1 worked in a plenary due to tech issues, while Cohort 2 used breakout rooms for more local interaction.

Group ratings of IH

cohort 1   mean **2.69**   standard deviation **0.64**

cohort 2   mean **3.23**   standard deviation **0.86**

Insights to Impact:
Implementing Four Workshop Takeaways

Embrace Diverse Perspectives

"Actively create more space for dissenting voices in classroom discussions."

"Be more open to the ideas of others"

"Listen to other points of view, even when you think you know the answer."

Leverage New Tech & AI

"Explore Perplexity AI for inclusion in classrooms."

"Use new interactive tools for better students learning experience. The tools shared today are amazing and amazing to keep the students engaged."

"Integrating AI into large class teaching."

Foster Critical Thinking & Intellectual Humility

"Critically examine my beliefs in different cultural context[s]"

"I have a greater awareness of the concept of intellectual humility, and people having different mindset that influences their thinking. I will take these tools back to the teaching team and show them how it can be used in the class and online"

"Embrace dilemma with proper rationale."

Enhance Engagement & Practice

"How to involve students in the learning process"

"Changing mindsets is part of my pedagogical practice as a sustainability educator. Am looking for new ways of supporting student learning and found some of the interactive aspects useful!! Will use them in my classes!!"

"Incorporating more critical thinking and interactivity into my classrooms"