
Rumors

Objectives

Introduce students to the approach of the course, which has a reputation among some students..

Activities

This activity is part of a suite of activities used to introduce students to the SCALE-UP class experience, which is a rather extensively transformed course structure. Students complete the CLASS survey, discuss why course material is important to learn, do this “rumors” activity, think about why they are here, talk about how this course is different from others.

In this activity, we ask students to collect rumors (about physics, instructor, curriculum, SCALE-UP) in small groups.

The person whose home is furthest from campus must record on big whiteboard for the entire table.

In the class wide discussion, the instructor can set a good precedent by responding honestly to concerns, dispelling inaccuracies, highlighting syllabus content, and negotiating certain aspects of the course. Discuss with humor and tact, in the spirit that “we’re all in this together”.

Effectiveness

Jon Gaffney (The Physics Teacher, Vol. 53, March 2015) notes that the “rumors” disguise is intended to allow students to dissociate themselves from their concerns, while creating an atmosphere of openness and respect. Students are surprisingly honest in this activity.

Framing the Active Learning Classroom

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Materials & Resources

Handout (below)

Classroom Context

Colorado Learning About Science Survey (CLASS):
<http://colorado.edu/sei/class>

More activities and information about SCALE-UP at
<http://scaleup.ncsu.edu/>

Time Requirement

One class period

About this Project

This is one of a set of materials compiled for instructors to draw upon in order to frame non-traditional modes of classroom teaching for their students. Our hope is that these materials can help reduce any student resistance to such techniques.

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Other materials available online at
www.colorado.edu/sei/fac-resources