13eg Gynhadledd Dysgu ac Addysgu Flynyddol

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Inclusive classroom discussion: break out of the ‘usual suspects’ scenario

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Many of us have experienced this scenario: We want to engage students actively in the learning process and stimulate deep learning, so we prepare questions to ask students during class. However, only a few students in the classroom respond, leaving the rest of the class to sit back in a passive, listening-only mode. No matter how hard we try to encourage others to speak, only the same few students actively engage. I think of this as the ‘usual suspects’ scenario.

We can break out of this scenario if we understand the reasons that lead to this behaviour and use a few simple methods to make classroom discussion more inclusive. We can engage a wider range of students actively in learning, resulting in better learning gains.

In this session, we’ll explore the reasons, gather practical tips for breaking out of the usual suspects scenario, and have a live demonstration of some useful strategies.

Topics include:

* Why don’t students actively engage during class? Some possible reasons.
* Actual learning versus a false feeling of learning – how to engage more students in actual learning.
* Universal Design for Learning (UDL) – how to make your teaching more inclusive by giving students options.
* Think-Pair-Share – how use thinking time to allows for rehearsal and cognitive processing, thus building up students’ confidence.
* Active Cognitive Tasks – how to design a question or thinking task that leads to meaningful learning.
* A resource list will be provided at the end of the session.

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