

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Periodic Games to Practice Terminology

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

By leveraging principles of the Scattergories game, the instructor engages students in a fun active learning quiz to reinforce important medical terminology. Students are informed about an upcoming Scattergories quiz in advance so that they have time to prepare. The instructor uses this activity three or four times a semester and plays two rounds each time. At the beginning of class, students receive a worksheet that is split into two parts—the top section is “round one” and the bottom section is “round two.” Each section contains a list of categories such as body parts, drugs, diseases, famous scientists, or fields of study. The instructor then rolls a letterhead die and announces the resulting letter. Students have approximately 10 to 15 minutes to list a word in each category that begins with the letter called. For example, if the letter “t” is called a student may list “tibia” as the body part, “Tylenol” as the drug, “tuberculosis” for the disease, and so on. Students are encouraged to list multiple words in each category for additional points. Unlike in the original game, however, students are permitted to have the same answers as other students in the class. After both rounds are complete, the instructor asks each student to share their answers with the class. At the end of the review and quiz, students place their name on their worksheet and hand it in to the instructor. The instructor awards points that apply toward each student’s overall point total in the course.