Making Effective Use of Lecture Time

Thursday, March 22, 2012
Making Effective Use of Lecture Time

- What are lectures good for?
- What they’re not so good for
- Ways to maximize their effectiveness
- Alternatives
Forms of Memory

- Declarative
  - “what”
- Procedural
  - “how”
- Attitudes
Forms of Learning

- Passive
- Active
What Are Lectures Good For?

• Transferring information
What Are Lectures Not So Good For?

• “...a process by which information is transferred from the notes of the lecturer to the notes of the student without going through the minds of either.” (Joseph Barcroft?)
What Are Lectures Not So Good For?

• Skills
• Attitudes
Maximizing Effectiveness

• Quantity
• Relevance
• Organization
Maximizing Effectiveness

- Enthusiasm
- Variety
- Interspersed activities
  - Ruhl et al., Teacher Educ. Special Educ. 10:14, 1987
    - 2 min. breaks 3x, compare notes
      - 108 vs 80 facts, short term
      - 85% vs 77% quiz score @ 10 days
Maximizing Effectiveness

- Feedback, rehearsal
  (adapted from DA Bligh, What’s The Use Of Lectures?, 2000)