

**Study Skills to Prepare the Adult Learner**

Topic: Active learning

Aim: To enable students to take control of their learning in a positive way

**Objectives:** At the end of this session students will be able to:

- Devise a working definition of active learning
- Understand the principles of active learning and what is involved
- Identify areas of study they need to work on
- Devise strategies for active learning
- Integrate active learning skills into study routines

Target Group: Pre-GED

Length: Approximately 2 hours

Materials: Markers (or chalkboard and chalk) chart, sample learning web.

Activity

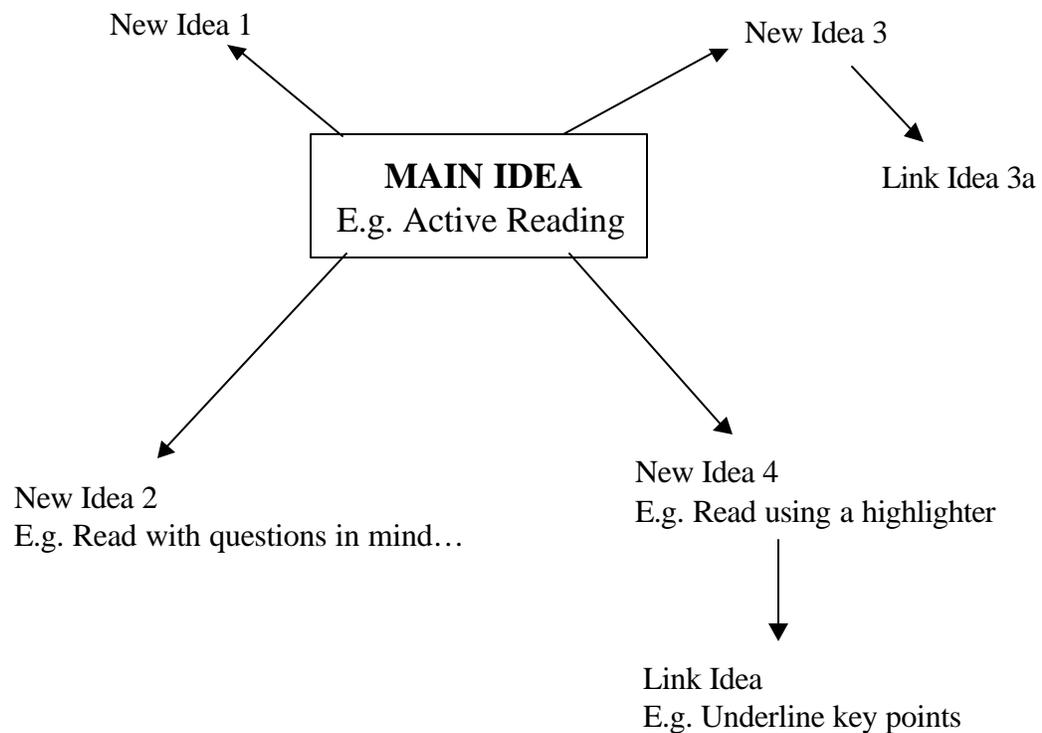
- 1) Brainstorm the concept of *active learning* and work towards a definition.  
Draw on examples from the group (15 mins)
- 2) Ask students to complete the following chart identifying their strengths in studying and areas which need development. (20 mins)

STUDY SKILLS	
Strengths:	Areas to develop:
E.g. Reading skills	Comprehension and finding key arguments

3) Working in groups, students should identify active learning strategies in three key study skill areas (active reading, discussion and tutorials, writing skills). Each group should work on one area and construct a learning web.

(30 mins)

## EXAMPLE LEARNING WEB



a) active reading – *allow students to provide answers, but make sure the following strategies are included;*

- using a highlighter
- taking notes
- reading with directed questions in mind
- summarizing arguments
- reconstructing the main themes from memory etc
- reading around the subject

b) discussions + tutorials – *allow students to provide answers, but make sure the following strategies are included;*

- preparing before going to a discussion class or tutorial
- reading through notes/material
- joining in the discussions
- if you do not feel confident prepare a question or comment in advance i.e. work at participation
- asking if you do not understand or are not sure about something
- trying to be assertive

c) writing skills – *allow students to provide answers, but make sure the following strategies are include;*

- reading round/researching the subject
- working to a plan
- always writing a rough draft
- proof read writing for spelling errors
- proof read writing for grammatical errors
- proof read for clear expression
- put together a checklist of your most common errors and use to proof all writing

4) Have groups share findings and discuss strategies. Extend to other study skill areas if time allows e.g. presentation skills. (30 mins)

5) Review class definition of active learning and discuss other ways for students to take control of learning. (20 mins)

For example;

Setting up study groups

Working together on past (GED) test papers

Practicing the test within a set time – using this test paper

Assessment/Homework (5mins – to set)

- Have students list 5 helpful things learned from the lesson
- Have students prepare a checklist that includes examples from the writing skills web of areas they need to work on
- Ask students to include the materials used in this session in their Personal Learning Log
- Ask students to locate their nearest library

**Follow Up:**

- Recap understanding of active learning.
- Review progress on identifying skill areas which need developing
- Review active learning strategies being use