

Using a Cooperative Learning Approach for Effective Teaching in a Large Class

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Metaphor for Teaching

- Docent- The word is derived from the Latin word docere and means to teach. Docents are educators, trained to further the understanding of the cultural and historical collections of an institution and to do research in their specialized areas.
- I want to induct the students into the culture of science and have them share my passion for this knowledge.
- Like the multi-colored pieces of glass in a kaleidoscope, docents have a multi-faceted view of their field.



Problem: Large Class Size

Solution: Cooperative Learning

- ❖ Break up the lecture part of the class with exercises the students do in groups.
- ❖ “Group quiz” that students take in groups covering new concepts applied to problems
- ❖ Have students bring in new applications of microarrays and discuss them. Have students vote on “application of the week”
- ❖ Cooperative Learning: Improved attendance, better morale, better mastery of subject

