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Confessions of a Microbiology Educator

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Keywords: microbiology projects; active learning; education

In this talk, I will summarize findings from 20 years of teaching microbiology at the university level. This talk will be less about chi-square tests and metacognitive studies and more about personal experiences and anecdotes. I will highlight a number of “outside-the-box” projects that I have implemented over the years. These projects engaged students actively both in and out of the classroom, and have been quite successful. In general, student participation, excitement, understanding, and application of microbial knowledge were increased. This has been evident via both qualitative (survey) and quantitative (exam) data, as well as better course evaluations. Simply put, another title for this presentation, could very well be ‘Making Microbiology Material Memorable’.