In-Class Exercises Increase Student Involvement in Introductory Environmental Science. (A01-graveel120323-Oral)

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Abstract:

In-class exercises are used in Introductory Environmental Science to offer a way for students to explore complex issues and analyze various options from different viewpoints. Instructors from The Earth and Atmospheric Science Department and the Natural Resources and Environmental Science Program jointly teach the Introductory Environmental Science course at Purdue University. The instructors are in the classroom together which results in continuity and linkages between the environmental topics being discussed and may provide different perspectives on the same issue. In class-exercises include case studies, data analysis and interpretation. Students actively process information and data, form opinions, discuss findings in small groups, than engage in whole class discussion of issues and implications. Benefits of this approach include a better understanding of environmental science since the student takes ownership in explanation and argument and has a stronger engagement in material. The students also learn that there is no unique correct answer or opinion and see science as an authentic process with multiple views coming together.

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