Active Learning is everything that traditional lecturing is not. Students are involved in their own learning process, actively engaged with course materials, each other, and the instructor.

There are many structured activities and projects in the literature, here are a few we suggest:

Think-Pair-Share - Pose a question for students to think or write about on their own. Next, they discuss in pairs and last, a few or all pairs, depending on time, share with the class.

Group Activities - Small group activities and discussions facilitated by group contracts, skills inventories, and self-assessment are a great way to engage students in their learning.

Debates - Structure a debate around a current topic to get students researching, critically thinking, and presenting evidence for their side.

Case Studies - Analyzing case studies help students problem-solve and can prepare them for real-world scenarios outside of the classroom.

Brainstorming Challenge - Have students come up with "as many things" of a certain category they can in the time allotted. Make it a game where they compete to win!

Active Learning is evidence-based

10% fewer students fail STEM courses that incorporate active learning when compared to traditional lecture
Freeman et al., PNAS 2014;111:23:8410-8415

Achievement gaps for URMs are reduced in Biology courses that use active learning
Haak et al., Science 2011;332:6024:1213-1216

Active learning increases student performance in Political Science and History courses

"Learning is more effective when it is an active, rather than a passive process"
-Kurt Lewin-