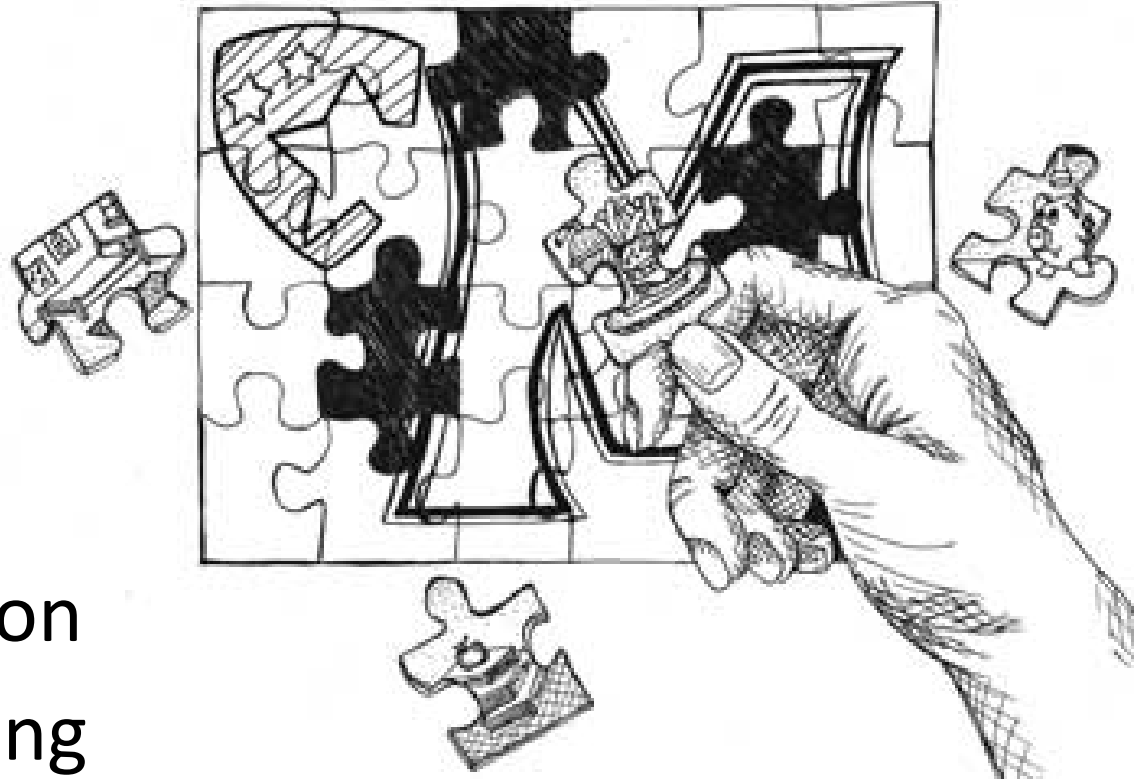# Active Methodologies and Adaptive Learning

Stephen Downes
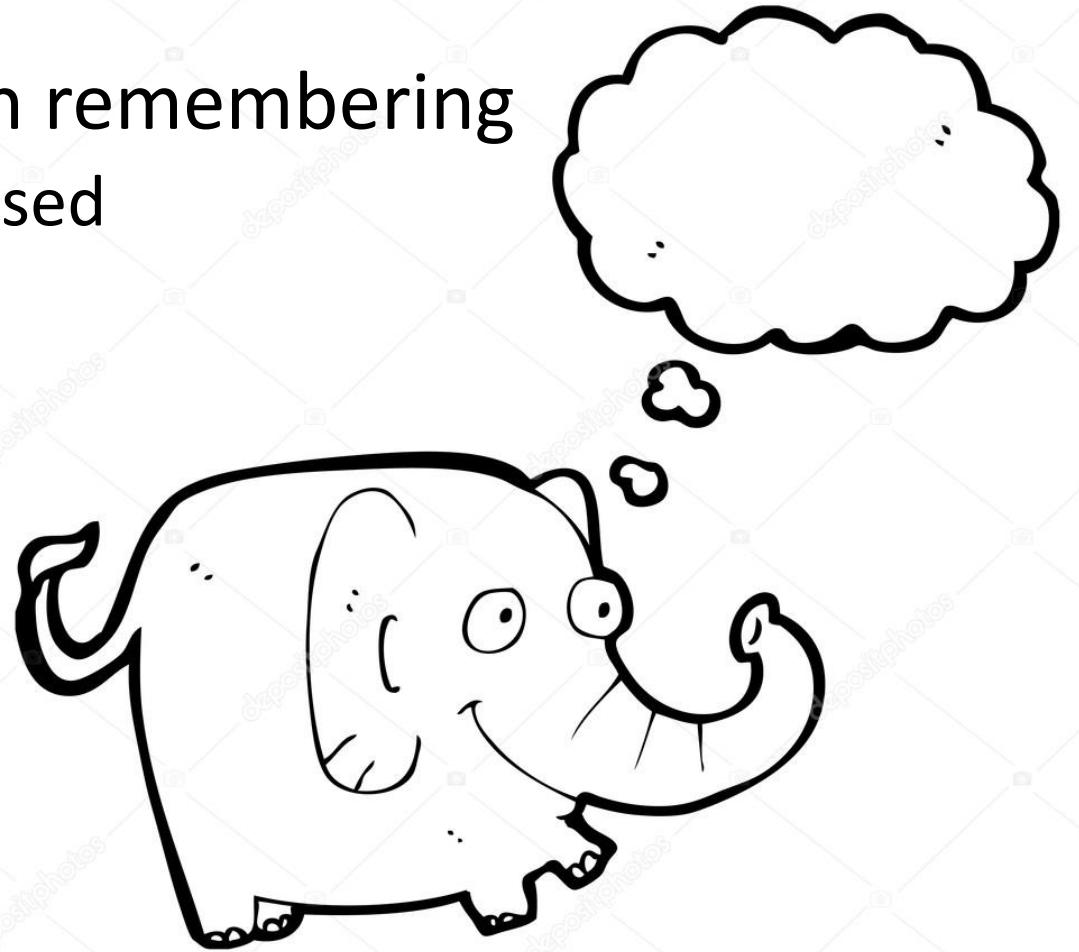
November 28, 2019

Active learning is not just doing

- It involves setting priorities and making plans
- It involves evaluating and selecting resources
- It involves decision-making
- It involves networking, collaboration, and cooperation
- It involves creating and sharing

Why? Because active learning is a different *type* of learning

- Traditional learning is based on remembering
  - It is topic-based and content-based
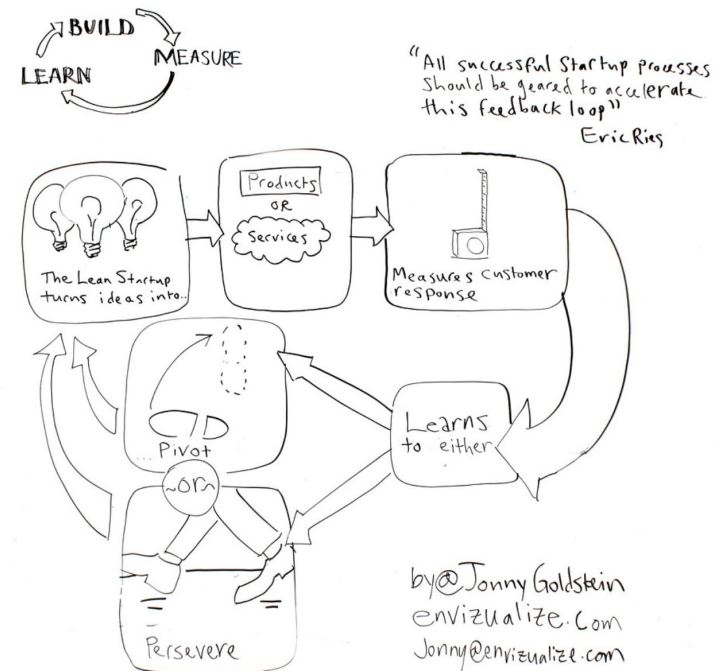 - It is focused on knowledge

Why? Because active learning is a different *type* of learning

- Active learning is based on growth
  - It includes, but is deeper than content and knowledge
  - Students learn how to see and recognize
  - They acquire a repertoire of tools and responses
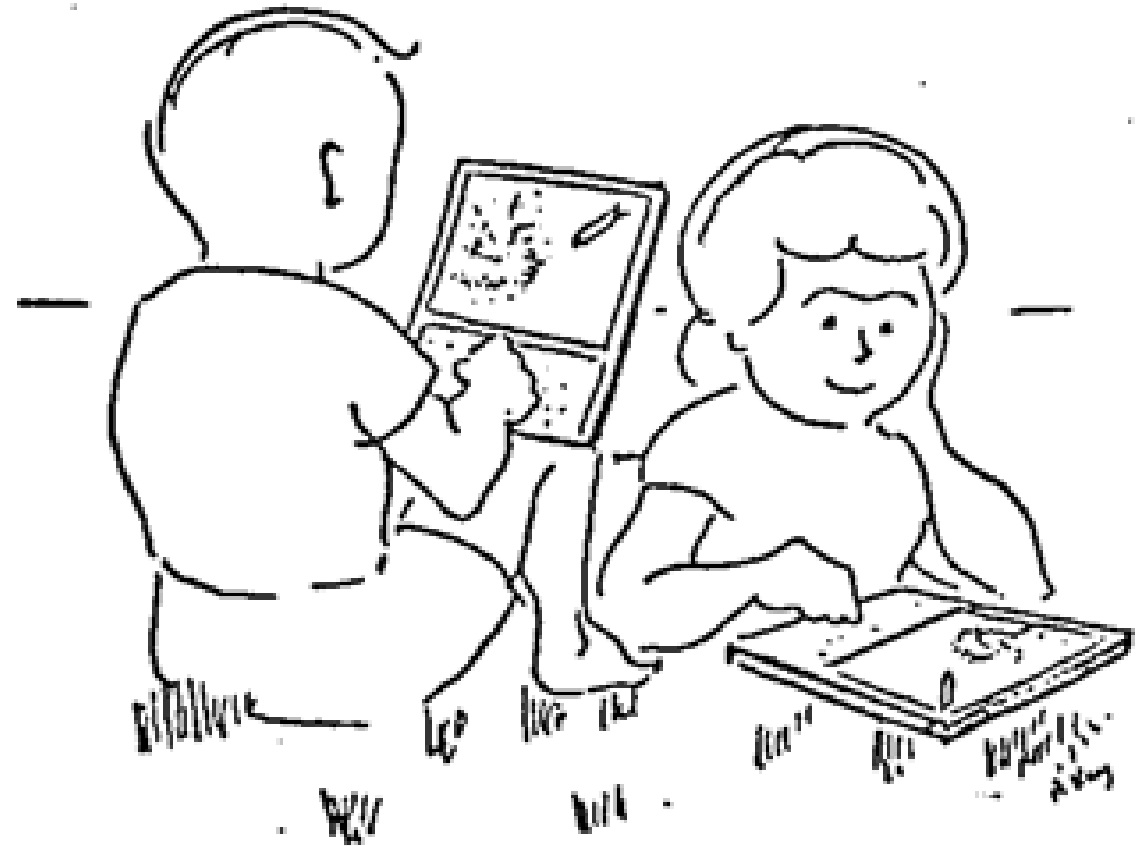 - One *becomes* an expert in a discipline; it's a form of embodiment

Adaptive Learning

- In traditional learning, topics, activities and lessons are designed and selected by the teacher

- Adaptive learning substitutes its own decisions for that of the teacher

    - Is based on a knowledge of the student (based on data, tests, etc)

    - Selects resources and activities from a set of alternatives

    - Manages the process of learning using these resources

In active learning,
these decisions should be made by the l*earner*

- It originates in what the student *wants to do* –
  goals, strategies
  - (which is often not known or deemed irrelevant by active learning systems)
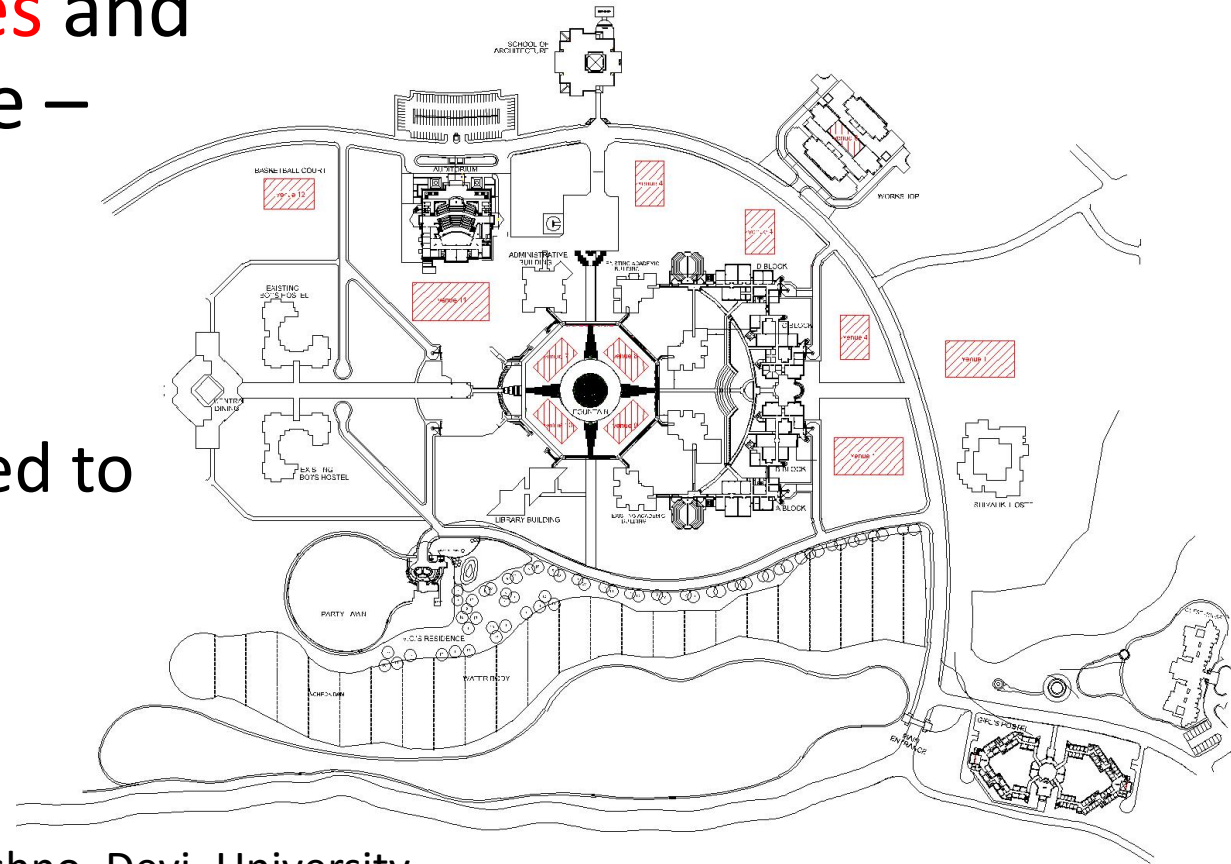
In active learning, these decisions should be made by the *learner*

- Learners own and use their own information -
  - (which can include data, tests, etc)
  - What they create, plus
  - Activity records, plus
  - Interactions, etc

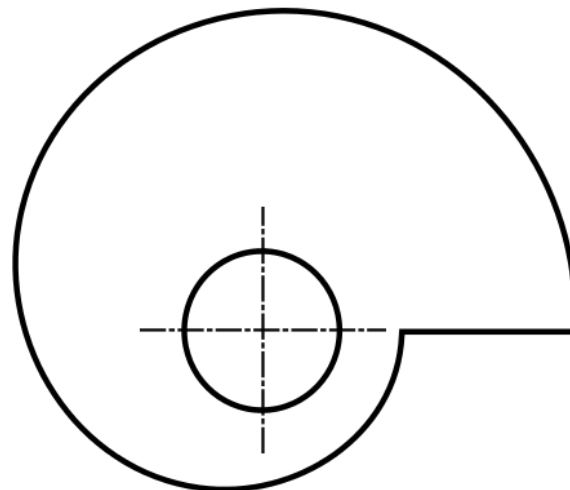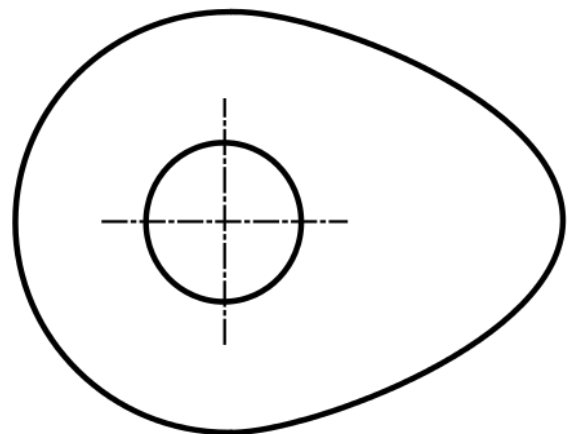http://angrybearcomics.blogspot.com/

In active learning, these decisions should be made by the *learner*

- Learners select resources and activities from anywhere – goals, content
  - (Not limited to a set of predefined alternatives)
  - May be localized or suited to their own background

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shri_Mata_Vaishno_Devi_University

In active learning,
these decisions should be made by the l*earner*

- They manage their own learning and share the outcomes
  - Monitoring, reflection

Personal learning vs personalized learning

- Begins with a task or project rather than content objective
- Analysis reveals opportunities rather than gaps
- Feedback is supportive rather than evaluative
- Students don't fail, they iterate