

Dissecting Cultural differences in Learning: How to promote engagement in lecture-based environment

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Literatures in Astronomy Education often assume that students and classrooms globally are similar and we often discuss best classroom practices as if they are universal. Often times, it is implied that all it takes is just translating classroom materials in native language and then the success could be replicated. However, this couldn't be further from the truth. Even though we all share the same biological basis, the culture that we were raised and the culture of the classroom that we inhabit in can be drastically different. Here, we attempt to discuss the challenges behind adapting one learning culture into another. More specifically, classroom across Asia tend to be much more one-directional and often times not enough emphasis is being put into engaging students to ask questions. Even though it can definitely be argued that there would be clear benefit in allowing the students to think more critically and allowing their beliefs and understanding to be open to challenged, many who has attempted such feat in an Asian classroom might agree that it is easier said than done. In this talk, the author attempts to share upon his experiences and discusses some of the "hacks" in which we can slowly get students to become more familiar with "active" learning style in the classroom culture that are not accustomed to one.

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