Strategies from 2019-2020 Cohort

Successful strategies:
- Ask questions!
- Small group discussions
- Hands-on learning/new resources
- Introductions (get to know students)
- Icebreakers

Challenges:
- Time management
- Energy level of the students
- Unresponsive students
- Lack of communication from the students
- Unmotivated students
- Diversity issues
- Criticism
- Students being overwhelmed

Strategies for each skit

1. Unresponsive students
   - Call on students by name, but give them a heads up early on in the term that you will be using this strategy
   - Grab their attention by reminding them that what you are teaching is “testable material”
   - Use transitions to get them to focus on you (i.e., a sound or turning the lights off and on)
   - Use multimedia (i.e., play a video)
   - Remind students of the Community Guidelines

2. Chaos in group – uncontrolled discussions
   - Acknowledge the limitations of science when presenting biological theories
   - Agree on and remind students of Community Guidelines
   - Debate ideas, not people
   - Be respectful
3. The monopoliser and the unprepared student

- Offer participation marks to get everyone involved
- Start with a pre-reading assignment
- Remind students of Community Guidelines
- Ask to hear from different students
- Ask for one answer only
- Set expectations of student participation early
- Talk to the enthusiastic student after class

4. Unbalanced attention to groups

- Start by having students review the material
- Ask students to compare answers from the previous class before starting
- Write the instructions on the board
- Do a demo
- Acknowledge raised hands, make a plan for the order you will visit groups in, follow through
- Have a sign-up sheet on the board where students can put their name if they have a question
- Use the 3 and then me rule
- Answer common questions via an announcement
- Ask previous TAs about common issues – come prepared
- Offer resources for students to read before coming back to you with questions
- Check-in with all students at least once