Teaching in Large Classes
Engaged or Not?
DVC(A) asked....How can we decrease withdrawal and failure rate in first year?
OLT project: Transitions in Biology-Secondary to Tertiary
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First Year Biology in Australia

• What is being taught
• How it is being taught
• Who is being taught
• How it is assessed
Large classes are cheap....

• So if they stay, how can we engage students?
• 1. Project based teaching
  – Singapore
  – Faculty of Science and Engineering at Flinders University
  – Start with first year biology
Structure

- Pre lecture
- Lecture
- Lectorial
- Lab – again costly...how much time in the lab?
- Supervised study
- Could this eventually go across disciplines? How could we do this?
Research – in first year, is it too hard??

- Engage a very diverse group (36 different degree programs)
- Provide problems to students who need to acquire knowledge in other disciplines to solve their problem...
- These can be real world problems which could receive funding by industry.