

# Case-based role play

## WHAT IS THIS RESOURCE?

A collection of research-based articles that demonstrate that students achieve learning outcomes better when participating in active-learning classes, as compared to traditional lecture classes.

## HOW DO I USE IT?

If you are unconvinced that active learning does indeed improve student learning outcomes, you can access these articles through the USC Libraries to review some of the evidence that makes active learning a best practice in higher-education instruction. For assistance, please [contact CET.](http://cet.usc.edu/)

A case-based role play is an active learning technique based on a scenario for which students assume a role as a character or stakeholder in the scenario and work with students playing other roles to accomplish a stated goal, producing a product such as a decision or set of recommendations

### Facilitation process

#### Pre

Instructor writes/chooses case study

Instructor divides students into groups

Instructor introduces format and case

#### During

Instructor assigns roles to students (this can happen beforehand if advanced preparation of the role is required)

Students review and discuss case from their assignment perspective

Instructor moderates, assists, and keeps time

#### Post

Students present/submit group product

Instructor debriefs purpose and application

### Options

It is possible for a case-based role play to have any combination of the following forms and delivery depending on your need, preference, or purpose.

Table Options

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Small class | Large class |
| Graded | Not graded |
| Stand-alone | Integrated |
| Authentic | Realistic |
| Structured | Unstructured |
| Complete information | Incomplete information |
| One phase | Jigsaw |
| Required consensus | No consensus |

### Benefits

#### Cognitive

* Increase retention
* Concretize concepts
* Build skills

#### Personal

* Increase empathy
* Increase motivation
* Increase attention

#### Social

* Create community
* Increase participation
* Foster collaboration