

Case of transforming traditional CS1 into active-learning style

Olga Glebova



Motivation

- Inspired by GHC 2017 session led by Helen Hu and Cynthia Lee
- Looking for my own teaching style
- Better serve student populations at GSU:
Black students, Hispanic students, low-income students

Challenges

Students

used to lectures

Administration - divided opinions

insists on 4 sections of CS1 being exactly the same

Challenges

Instructor:

- Junior teaching-track faculty
- Used to lectures
- Student evaluations?!

POGIL community support:

Intensive 4-day workshop;
ongoing online mentoring;
follow-up 1 day in-person workshop at SIGCSE!

All POGIL activities provided (~**40%** of class time)

Students' feedback (anonymous)



62/97

- “ I am able to learn more ... ”
- “ teamwork helps ... promote honest feedback ”
- “ ...when we work together it solidifies the knowledge ”



only 3/97 students

- “I honestly don't like it that much”

No answer: 32/97

Students

- embraced teamwork and roles
- asked for more



Administration

- eventually kind-of bought in

Student evaluations...

- ... slightly **DROPPED!**
- **No big deal!**
Because...



Instructor

- Tried POGIL in other classes since then
- Working on writing activities for other classes
- Definitely going to use POGIL consistently in CS1 classes





TRY IT!

#ActiveLearningChallenge

#POGIL-Challenge

cspogil.org



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CALM
AND**

POGIL ON

national center for

women &

INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY

Resources

FREE and COMPLETE set of activities for CS1 and CS2

<http://cspogil.org>

Additional: regional workshops and **free** on-demand workshops available
Seriously committed to try? Join cohort at CS-POGIL (receive stipend and mentoring and travel support), details at cspogil.org

Feel free to contact me: OLGA GLEBOVA oglebova1@gsu.edu