

Physics experiments as building blocks of knowledge

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Abstract. Today we have irrefutable evidence that to learn anything people need to be active participants in the learning process, not passive observers. In addition, the society expects us to prepare future generations not only to have basic knowledge of physics but also to learn how to think like a physicist. How do these ideas affect the experimental aspect of teaching and learning physics? In my talk, I will describe how changes in my own views about the role of physics experiments helped me see new features of experiments that later allowed me to engage all students in active learning, to teach them to think like physicists, and to improve Physics Education program at our department.