Fig. 1 Participant suggestions for STEM instructors of active-learning STEM courses.

With regards to accommodations, they could always have a footnote about accommodations and just protocol. I think that would be hel ful for students with disabilities. Because then they see okay, I have a roadmap. I can approach the professor and, it'd just be something that would be nice to have in a syllabus. -Erik

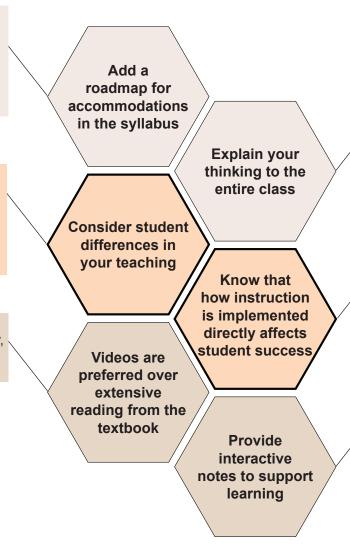
You have a certain bar set and if some students are meeting that, then you think that, that's an appropriate bar but if other students aren't, it's like are they not putting in enough effort? Or maybe they have a learning disability that's keeping them from getting up to that [goal] and you don't really know.

-Vivian

[High-quality] videos work a lot better than trying to flood [read] a textbook, just passages and passages of [STEM content in really, really big words. It works a lot better.
-Bryce

FIGURE 1. Participant suggestions for STEM instructors of active-learning STEM courses. Orange represents more general suggestions, and shades of tan indicate more specific suggestions related to barriers presented in this study. (Adapted.)

Pfeifer et al., 2023. CBE-Life Sciences Education.



It's not right when everyone gets the question wrong and it's very obvious, it's like 80% for answer D, and the answer was A. You just say worrisome things, and groan and moan, and [say] "Uh-oh, you all have a test on Wednesday, uh-oh." That's not helping anyone. That's not building up anyone. That's giving everyone anxiety. That's giving everyone a little more stress about not understanding something that we don't even know what [the instructor is] referring to exactly. There's so many parts of a question, we don't even know where people could potentially be going wrong...That doesn't give people hope or determination to figure a question out.

-Kacey

My grade in a course is usually pretty highly affected by how the teacher teaches, and the quality of their teaching. So the better they teach, the better I'm going to understand it. And I think that active learning just works a lot better in general for me when implemented correctly. It really does make a huge difference -Therese

I would have less of reason to self-advocate if I had those resources.
-Stewart