

Learning Matters

a newsletter of the Teaching Excellence Center

Information and Support for Teaching and Learning

This newsletter will keep faculty informed about workshops, teaching tips and other ideas from the Teaching Excellence Center. The TEC is here to support teaching and learning across the campus. I look forward to your participation and suggestions.

Dr. Amy Andersen, Director

Problems with Plagiarism?

Are you worried about plagiarism in your classroom? If so, you are right in line with your colleagues across the nation. A study by the Center for Academic Integrity found that almost 80% of college students admit to some type of cheating at least once. Similarly, 36% of undergraduate students admit to plagiarizing written material. This phenomenon is also happening in high schools across the United States. In 1969, 58.3% of high school students admitted to letting someone else copy their work while in 1989, 97.5% admitted to this same act. (www.plagiarism.org)

With the availability of papers and other information on the Internet and through other electronic sources, the number of plagiarism incidents is bound to increase. Why does this happen? How can we prevent plagiarism? How can we best monitor student work to find out if plagiarism has occurred? Join the TEC in a workshop addressing these very issues!

What: Preventing Plagiarism

When: April 12, 2011 from 3:30-4:30

Where: HELC Training room (55D)

Join the TEC to discuss the reasons students may plagiarize, ways to help prevent it from occurring, and resources for more guidance.

Classroom Tools

Are you looking for ways to motivate and re-energize yourself and your students after spring break? Here are some simple ideas to help:

Try Something New Use a strategy you have never used before such as having students create graphics of some sort to summarize or review the content. These might include charts and graphs or drawings. Then students share their graphic depiction and explain their thought process. Students must think differently about the content to create these kinds of products.

Take a field trip During class time, take a field trip to study a topic related to your course content. This could be an actual field trip or a virtual one. You might visit the museum, a local business, or some other location related to your content.

Take part in a written discussion Students write about your topic of the day for a few minutes, and then pass their paper to a classmate. Students read the original response and add their own to clarify ideas or extend the thought process. They can then pass the paper again to repeat the procedure.

Make use of case studies. Create realistic, practical scenarios for your students to use to problem solve about your topic. For more information on these and other motivating tasks, the following text is available for checkout: *On Course: A Week-by-Week Guide to Your First Semester of College Teaching* by James M. Lang

Consultations

The TEC is available to anyone for consultation about specific teaching concerns or effectiveness. The TEC can provide ideas for instructional methods to respond to these concerns. All consultations are strictly confidential. Please contact the TEC to make an appointment.

TEC Website

Don't forget that the Teaching Excellence Center website is a place to find out about the services, teaching ideas and programs offered by the TEC. The website is slowly growing as we add new ideas and strategies. Categories reflected on the website include:

Essential Links- Important links on the university website

Faculty Opportunities- a focus on opportunities for teaching awards, grants and presentations

Services- describes the different services provided by the Teaching Excellence Center.

Teaching Toolkit- provides many links to teaching tools and strategies found on the Internet

Don't forget to utilize this free resource as you work to support learning across the campus.

Contact the TEC

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