Incorporating Special Topics Using an Active Learning Approach

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Showcase of Teaching and Learning
May 2, 2018
“Standard” Mode of Instruction

• Instructor’s role = most of the talking

• Students’ role = passive, recipient of knowledge

Water, by Carol VanHook
Active Learning

• Student’s role = actively engage in learning through reading, writing, listening, talking, and reflecting

• Instructor’s role = develop activities and tasks that require students to take an active role in learning

Lamp, by Stephen Poff
What are the Benefits of Active Learning?

- It develops critical thinking
- It increases retention and transfer of knowledge
- It helps develop interpersonal skills
- It increases motivation

- University of Minnesota Center for Teaching and Learning
  http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/tutorials/active/what/
Challenge: What Should I Include in My Course?

• There is a lot of important content to address in a course

• There are areas of interest that students want to learn about, but these can be diverse and time consuming
Solution: Incorporate Special Topics Using an Active Learning Approach

Step 1: Students brainstormed special topics

Step 2: Students signed up for a special topic

Step 3: Resource preparation related to special topics

Step 4: Development of research questions (small groups)

Step 5: Creation of posters to demonstrate learning

Step 6: Poster presentations
Resource Preparation

Week 15: Special Topics in Literacy

Add dates and restrictions...

Add a description...

New  Add Existing Activities  Bulk Edit

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- CURR 355 Special Topics in Literacy Class Plan
- CURR 355 Special Topics in Literacy Exit Slip
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- Early Years_Kindergarten_Resources
- Outdoor Education and Literacy_Resources
Resource List

Reluctant Writers Resources

Books:
How do I get them to write? [electronic resource]: explore the reading-writing connection using freewriting and mentor texts to motivate and empower students / Karen Tilewich. (2017).
https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsinfo?bibid=4781972
Reclaiming reluctant writers [electronic resource]: how to encourage students to face their fears and master the essential traits of good writing / Kellie Buik. (2007).
https://qcat.library.queensu.ca/vwebv/holdingsinfo?bibid=4280138

Articles:
https://muse-jhu.edu.proxy.queensu.ca/article/557408
7 Ways to Guide and Inspire Reluctant Children to Write, by Teach Starter
https://www.teachstarter.com/blog/7-ways-guide-inspire-reluctant-boys-write/
Four Great Strategies to Encourage Reluctant Writers, by Beth Greenan
http://www.writeawaywithme.com/education/four-great-strategies-to-inspire-reluctant-writers/
Strategies and Tips for Reluctant Writers, by Kriscia Cabral
20 Ways to Help Reluctant Writers in Your Classroom
http://teacheroffduty.com/teaching-reluctant-writers-classroom/

Videos:
Help for Struggling Writers, by Reading Rockets
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoztXNYy9sk
Two Strategies for Reluctant Writers, by Reading Rockets
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=in8PfEnNYVk
Paul Rogers: Motivating Struggling and Reluctant Writers, by Reading Rockets
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7RnPWk65Dg
Creation of Posters
Poster Presentations
Questions?