Getting Their Hands Dirty: Collaborating to Engage Undergraduates in Learning

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Collaborating to Engage Undergraduates in Learning

Hannah Britton, Ph.D., and Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh, M.L.S., Ph.D.
In this session, we will...

- Present our collaboration on assignment design and research instruction, then...
- You will discuss how you might design/redesign an assignment
Sound familiar?

I’m sick of reading the same-old tired research papers! How can I get my students more engaged in their learning?

Let’s put our heads together and think of some more exciting alternatives...
Barr & Tagg: “Paradigm Shift in Higher Education…”

“Providing Instruction”

“Producing Learning”

Shift could mean...

- Letting go of traditional “class time”...
- Taking some risks on what you’re going to get...

**BUT...**

- Students are actively engaged and responsible for their learning
- They experience what real research in the field is, not just reading about it
Two “mini” original research projects!

- Gender’s impact in campaign ads
  - Critical thinking
  - Analytical skills
  - Media literacy
  - Research methodology

- Gendered patterns of U.S. legislators
  - Critical thinking
  - Analytical skills
  - Quantitative literacy
  - Research methodology
Getting their hands dirty...

- Campaign project
  - Readings → research ?s and coding scheme
  - Getting the data...
  - Findings and self-critiques

- Legislative project
  - Readings → research ?s and coding scheme
  - Getting the data...
  - Findings and self-critiques
Potential Worries

- More work for me?
  - Preparation yes, grading no
- Control Freak?
  - Unknown produces learning
- Layers of Collaboration
Now, your turn!

- Break into groups and brainstorm ways to design/redesign an assignment that:
  - Achieves articulated pedagogical aims
  - Engages students’ in original analysis, and
  - Involves collaboration between the instructor and another academic member (e.g., a librarian, a writing center professional, another instructor, etc.).
Resources

- KU Libraries’ Subject Specialists: [http://www.lib.ku.edu/directory/subjectspecialists.cfm](http://www.lib.ku.edu/directory/subjectspecialists.cfm)
- KU Writing Center: [http://www.writing.ku.edu/](http://www.writing.ku.edu/)
- KU Center for Teaching Excellence: [http://www.cte.ku.edu/](http://www.cte.ku.edu/)

THANKS FOR ATTENDING!!