Plan for a SoTL Project

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| **Research Question**  What are you curious about?  What would you like to know about strategies that might hinder and/or help students to learn, in your course?  Do you want to know if an activity, assignment, or teaching strategy “works?”  Do you have a question about how to help your students learn a particular skill?  Are learners prepared for Post Sec.?   * Knowledge of course material * Study skills * Confidence |
| **Identify challenge/outcome related to learning that is related to your question.**  Describe the learning in a way that suggests how you might *measure* it using either qualitative or quantitative methods.  **Quantitative –**  results in post-secondary courses  CPA results for those who take it  Formal survey  Longer term – because small sample size  **Qualitative** –  interviews with learners. Structured to focus on transferable knowledge from ACP to Post Sec., confidence in ability to attain credential  Interviews with faculty |
| **Describe the instructional activity, assignment, or teaching strategy that will promote student learning on the outcome you identified.**  SoTL projects might investigate the impact of a *modification* to an existing strategy or assignment. Describe how the new approach differs from the old approach and why this modification might change student learning on this outcome.  **At intake program course goals and what learner feels strength and weaknesses are.**  **Throughout ask the student to note these and revisit throughout the class in journal exercise**  **One on one meeting for research paper will include review and discussion of how to use the research assignment to address any gaps** |
| **Describe the evidence that would persuade an external audience that the new or modified teaching strategy improves student learning on the targeted learning outcome.**  Describe the evidence you would need to collect to answer questions about the impact or value of this teaching strategy. How would you convince others that this approach is better than other approaches? What comparisons should you make? Examine students; skill before and after the assignment? Compare students who complete the learning activity to another group of students – what comparisons would be meaningful?   * Evidence needed: a measure of student confidence before starting post sec., student success in post sec * Compare grades and confidence measure with similar students who hadn’t taken upgrading. * Interview learners and share success stories * Compare goals at start of ACP to after post sec. in a long-term study. Use individual measures of success |
| **How and where would you publish, present, or disseminate this work?**  Network with colleagues to discuss outcomes and best practices  Share with learners  Publish in a journal related to upgrading / adult education  Attend a conference |

Adapted from: C. J. Stanny, E. M. El-Sheikh, & H-M. Chung (2009) ***Getting Started with a SoTL Project***

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