Plan for a SoTL Project

by Dr. Trish Morrow, St. Lawrence College

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| **Research Question**  What are the best student centered engagement activities to implement in an active learning classroom? Or do we need to create different types of activities to engage various learning styles? Is it not the learning environment but the structure of the learning activity?  Ethical Concerns – The biggest concern I encounter when I think about the active learning classroom is ensuring all student needs are met, especially those with any LDs. This classroom format is much more challenging to control so this is always something on my mind. |
| **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.  Student feedback will provide subjective measure but student performance on assessment including tests/quizzes will provide objective data. The issue with student feedback is that there will be bias as students may have preconceived beliefs on classroom learning. The issue with testing is the anxiety around this method of assessment that could skew results. |
| **Describe the instructional activity, assignment, or teaching strategy that will promote student learning on the outcome you identified.**  I would like to look at the use of interrupted case studies in my anatomy and physiology course. I would like to challenge the students to work through real life scenarios to reinforce their learning. I would then try collaborative note taking and breakout groups as different methods to assess the best learning method. I would compare each of these with my previous teaching strategies that I have implemented in an active learning classroom for the past 10 years. |
| **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?  As a low stakes method of assessing learning, I would create a pre and post quiz protocol. I would also create a comprehensive question that integrates the material covered in the case study to see if students were able to retain the knowledge. I would like to offer students the opportunity to reply to this question through the modality of their choice (written, video, artistically). |
| **How and where would you publish, present, or disseminate this work?**  I would present this work at our annual college conference – “Learning Connections”. I would create a presentation and share my experience with my colleagues. This would be a great opportunity to share what I found, what worked and what didn’t work. It would also offer an opportunity for others to share their experiences in the same area.  If it went well I would consider presenting at our annual provincial program meeting. |

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

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