

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?

I am always looking for creative ways of teaching to enhance students' learning. I am trying to find out new strategies and analogies that can enhance students' engagement and interaction, especially for my heavier science courses.

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.

The main challenge to student engagement is the heavy course content. I use different methods to measure whether my teaching strategies to promote engagement are effective for students. For example, I use feedback surveys

such as Microsoft Office Forms or Google Forms to determine if the applied strategy is useful in helping students learn.

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.

Some strategies that may be employed to enhance student interaction and motivation during long classes may be conducting short Kahoot quizzes interspersed within the content, facilitating group discussions, or assigning case studies to them to work on together and find solutions based on the content discussed to put the theory into practice.

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?

The most impactful way to measure how new teaching strategies are working is to enhance engagement is to consult students directly, as the opinions of the implicated parties are the best evidence. This can be gathered officially through feedback surveys, which will provide quantifiable data as evidence. Another method to prove that the strategies are working is to calculate student performance pre- and post-implementation, to demonstrate this improvement numerically.

How and where would you publish, present, or disseminate this work?

I can share the results in our professional network, Learning Connection conference, or other professional platforms.

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

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