

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Scaffolding Citations and Writing Essays

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

This course teaches students how to read and incorporate peer-reviewed journal articles and APA citations into academic writing. The instructor models how to read a peer-reviewed journal article using the scientific method and how to write using APA formatting.

For the first assignment, the instructor asks students to find an article that is culturally relevant to them and to write a one-page essay using the article and proper citations. This assignment gives students an opportunity to practice using APA style for citing “borrowed” work. For the second assignment, students search for articles on a self-selected topic using the library database and create a corresponding bibliography. The third assignment, based on instructor feedback from the one-page essay, is to write a three- to four-page paper using the articles the student researched in the second assignment.

Throughout this process, the instructor uses examples from hip hop and pop music in which the artist used material created by another person without requesting permission and properly citing copyrighted material. These examples help the instructor emphasize the importance of properly citing others’ work, as artists who “borrowed” copyrighted work have been sued and were made to pay heavy fines.

Notes from the Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

“whosampled.com” is a website that gives examples of artists who sample other artists with music that is in the public domain.