

Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

Increasing Class Discussion Through Team Presentation

Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

For this innovative teaching practice, the instructor creates teams to serve as discussion leaders for assigned academic journal articles. This activity helps students work on their presentation skills and increases class discussion.

The instructor provides students with a list of articles, and students write down their first, second, and third choices. The instructor forms teams of approximately three based on students' interests. Each team reads its assigned article in depth and leads a 15-minute class discussion about that article in class on a specified date. The instructor expects all students in the class to read all assigned articles so they can participate in the class discussion. On the specified date, the team leading the discussion can start with a short presentation using PowerPoint or other media. However, the instructor requires that the time be used primarily for class discussion. Each team member is expected to play an active role in the presentation and discussion.

In addition to the team component of the project, each team member writes a two-page, double spaced response essay that they turn in to the instructor at the time of the class discussion. This response paper reflects on the ideas and issues presented in the article. The instructor asks that the essay cite at least one academic source other than the article assigned for discussion and that the citations for all sources be included in a bibliography using Chicago, MLA, or APA format.

The teams are graded collectively on their preparedness and organization of the class discussion. Each student is graded individually on the thoughtfulness, clarity, and knowledge of the subject captured in their essay. The instructor provides teams with two class periods to prepare for their discussion. Teams also work outside of class to complete the project.