

# Ensure Students Are Learning: Faculty Descriptions of Innovative Teaching Practices

## Word Cloud Creation: Conceptualizing Public Speaking

### Innovative Teaching Practice Description:

To introduce a topic and help students make connections with various aspects of the topic, the instructor asks students to create a “word cloud.” To start the activity, the instructor gives students a key word or words related to topics about public speaking and communication, such as “persuasion,” “motivation,” or “communication competence.” Students then individually brainstorm words that relate to the topic. Once students have finished, the instructor leads a lecture about the individual responses and asks students to share their related words with the rest of the class. The instructor either writes the words on the whiteboard or has students write them. During the discussion, the instructor points out how words and concepts within the collection are connected. The whole class then works together to create a new word cloud.

### How to Ensure Participation in This Innovative Teaching Practice:

The instructor invites students who do not participate in the discussion to add their words and thoughts to the word cloud on the whiteboard. This process of randomly calling on students helps them get accustomed to speaking in front of and receiving feedback from the rest of the class, as they will have to do in other class assignments.

### Notes from The Instructor About This Innovative Teaching Practice:

“I learned about this activity through an open educational resource site and recommend the following website to other faculty: <https://www.oercommons.org/>.”