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Presentation - Cultivating Future Scholars: A Cross-Campus Collaboration on an Original Research Project

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Cultivating Future Scholars

A Cross-Campus
Collaboration on an
Original Research
Project

Jessica Johanningmeier and
Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh

Consultants as “Disciplinary Discourse Mediators”

- “Instruction librarians [and other consultants]...are positioned as simultaneous insiders and outsiders in a discipline; this in-between position places librarians well to facilitate students' awareness and understanding of disciplinary genres” (Simmons, 2005, p. 305).

Cultivating Future Scholars

- Students will:
 - Engage in original research
 - Apply skills learned in class
 - Become familiar with research design
 - Develop information, quantitative, and writing fluencies

Planning the Assignment...

- Staging of assignment
- Assignment description
- Sequencing of instruction with QRC, SSL, and WC

Planning the Peer Critique...

- Student Peer Critique:
 - Designed by the WC
 - Used by students to critique each other's papers
 - Facilitates collaborative learning
 - Introduces students to peer review process

QRC/SSL Instruction

- Finding sources for lit review
 - Databases/sources for soc research
 - Finding current and applicable research
 - Using ICPSR's "Related Literature"
- Finding/using data sets
 - Searching/Browsing ICPSR
 - Using ICPSR's Description page
 - Using ICPSR's Online Analysis
 - Downloading/analyzing data

WC/Prof Instruction

- Peer critiques
 - Ways to critique effectively
 - What to get out of being critiqued
- Writing literature review
 - How to synthesize articles
 - Using hypotheses as organizational guide

QRC/WC Instruction

- Writing research report
 - Writing Consultant:
 - Introduction
 - Method
 - Quantitative Reasoning Consultant:
 - Results
 - Discussion
 - Time for student questions/concerns

Individual Consultations

- Social Sciences Librarian
 - Finding/evaluating relevance of sources for lit review
- Quantitative Reasoning Consultant
 - Analyzing/interpreting data
- Writing Consultant
 - Writing/organizing research report

Future Improvements

- Issue:
 - Problems with using previously-collected data
- Possible solutions:
 - More upfront discussion of pros/cons of using previously-collected data
 - Pre-selecting data

Cultivating Future Scholars

- Students will:
 - Engage in original research
 - Apply skills learned in class
 - Become familiar with research design
 - Develop information, quantitative, and writing fluencies

Engage in Original Research

- Students formulated hypotheses grounded in current literature.
- Students analyzed data to test hypotheses.
- Students wrote research reports to present findings of studies, relating their findings to current research.

Apply Skills Learned in Class

- Students chose a sociological topic.
- Students illustrated their understanding of social-scientific research design.
- Students analyzed data using SPSS.
- Students interpreted data.

Become Familiar with Research Design

- Students read research reports for literature review.
- Students reviewed method of data collection for data used.
- Students wrote research reports.

Develop Information, Quantitative, and Writing Fluencies

- Students used a variety of sources to search for prior studies on their topics.
 - Assisted by Social Sciences Librarian
- Students analyzed and interpreted data.
 - Assisted by Quantitative Reasoning Consultant
- Students wrote research proposals, literature reviews, and research reports.
 - Assisted by Writing Consultant

In Conclusion...

- Students see similarities/differences between social science discourses
- Cultivating future scholars
- Consultants as “disciplinary discourse mediators”
- Interconnectivity of information, quantitative, and writing fluencies

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