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

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“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).

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
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
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