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Presentation: Small Teaching: Effective Techniques to Scaffold Student Learning in Information Literacy Sessions

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Small Teaching: Effective Techniques to Scaffold Student Learning in Information Literacy Instruction Sessions

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Small Teaching and Effective Learning Techniques

- **Small Teaching**: Small manageable things to include in teaching in a class session that make a difference in student learning. Based on 9 principles (Lang, 2016).

- **Effective Learning Techniques**: 10 learning techniques that help students achieve learning goals (Dunlosky, 2013).
9 Principles from Learning Science (Lang, 2016)

- Retrieving
- Predicting
- Interleaving
- Connecting
- Practicing
- Self-Explaining
- Motivating
- Growing
- Expanding
Effective Learning Techniques
(Dunlosky, 2013)

- Elaborative Interrogation
- Self-Explanation
- Summarization
- Highlighting/Underlining
- Keyword Mnemonic
- Imagery for Text
- Rereading
- Practice Testing
- Distributed Practice
- Interleaved Practice
## Generalizability of Techniques

*(Dunlosky, 2013)*

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- Amount of practice (dosage)
- Open-vs. closed book practice
- Reading vs. listening
- Incidental vs. intentional learning
- Direct instruction
- Discovery learning
- Rereading lags
- Kind of practice tests
- Group vs. individual learning

- Age
- Prior domain knowledge
- Working memory capacity
- Verbal ability
- Interests
- Fluid intelligence
- Motivation
- Prior achievement
- Self-efficacy
Application for Information Literacy Instruction

Information Literacy Skills and Knowledge Practices

• Higher order metacognitive skills
• Threshold concepts (ACRL Framework, 2016)
• Metaliteracy
• Synthesis: Integration and transformation
• Using elaborative interrogation prompts to scaffold information literacy skills.
Examples of Prompts

Citing and Evaluation: The Value Dimension of Information

• How do you give credit to the ideas/opinions of others? Why?
• How do you value information in your online interactions?
• What are the issues related to privacy in sharing personal information in your online interactions?
• Do you value information differently using different platforms/venues of information? Why?
Examples of Prompts

Inquiry: Formulating the Research Process

- What is the puzzle behind the question?
- What would you need to know to answer the question?
- Where would you go to answer the question?
- How would you answer the question?
- What do you already know? Questions?
- What new themes emerge? How are they related to what you already know?
Examples of Prompts

Effective Searching: Exploring the Information Landscape

• What platforms/venues of information would be appropriate?
• How are these organized/structured?
• Who might produce this information?
• What search strategies would you employ? Why?
• How would you manage these results?
Examples of Prompts

Format and the Message: Value and Context of Information Need

- How are format, process, and delivery related?
- What’s format got to do with it?
- What is the value of examining different formats of information for specific information needs?
Examples of Prompts

Evaluation of Authority: Context and Authority

• What are some of the types of authority?
• What factors do you look for in your assessment of authority?
• What is the difference between authority and expertise?
• What is your expertise?
Examples of Prompts

Scholarly Communication: Venues and Products

• What are some of the venues of scholarly conversation? Barriers?
• What are the key issues/topics? Who are the people in the conversation?
• What are the products of the conversation?
• Citation chaining/paradigm shifts?
• How has the perspective changed on the topic over time?
Activity: Let’s Generate Prompts

Scenario: Political Science Research Assignment

Your faculty colleague invites you to do an IL session for their upper-level Political Science course called *Comparative Politics*. Students are expected to do a case study of a political event/movement and explain their research in the context of a political theory.

**Example:** What explains democratization efforts in country X during the time period Y?

**Activity:** 5-10 prompts that you could include in your instruction session.
References


Thank you!

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