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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)

### Materials

- Vocabulary
- Translation
- Lecture content
- Science definitions
- Narrative texts
- Expository texts
- Mathematical concepts
- Maps
- Diagrams

### Learning Conditions

- 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

### Characteristics

- Age
- Prior domain knowledge
- Working memory capacity
- Verbal ability
- Interests
- Fluid intelligence
- Motivation
- Prior achievement
- Self-efficacy

### Tasks

- Cued recall
- Free recall
- Recognition
- Problem solving
- Argument development
- Essay writing
- Creation of portfolios
- Achievement tests
- Classroom quizzes

# 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.

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# Thank you!

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