

Ways to Encourage Independent Learning

Sept. 21st to Oct. 9th, 2009

“I think group work can foster independent learning because there’s a greater or more immediate sense of accountability... I wonder too if the dialogue itself has something to do with it. The idea that students have to talk about a concept seems to engage another part of their brain.” **Connie Kuchar**

“If I don’t make them [the students] read the chapter before we discuss it, it takes far more class time to explain the content to them; and if I don’t make them do exercises that accompany the reading, they won’t do the reading I assign; but many of them have trouble executing the concepts without the benefit of my discussion first. So my solution...is to tell them that they must complete at least one question bank [from the textbook or made by me] before class. If they do, I will allow them to complete additional question banks after class, and I will average the grades together to get their grade for that day’s assignment.” **Shanie Latham**

“I agree with the idea of selecting a textbook that has learning aids because this type of textbook allows the student the opportunity to prepare for class or an exam at home.” **Kimberleigh Foster**

“One thing [you can do] to encourage students to use the textbook is that you use the textbook very frequently.” **Imran Shah**

“The article [‘What it Means to be a Self-Regulated Learner’] goes on to discuss the need for students to self-reflect after completing a task. I believe this is important, but something that they should have practiced all along their educational journey.... One of the chapters in the COL 101 class looks at Learning Styles and #8 in the article [‘Ten strategies for Getting Students to Take responsibility for Their Learning’] suggests having students analyze their learning styles to help them process information. I find that students sometimes don’t understand their own learning experiences. They know what doesn’t work, but rarely know what does work.” **Susan DeClue**

“Next semester I am going to build in some reflection activities before and during major papers so that students are thinking about what they are doing throughout the process and not just when they reach the end.” **Shanie Latham**