

Encouraging Peer-to-Peer Learning in an Online Class

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The Problem

- Students not feeling engaged and part of a community in an online learning environment
- Students being robotic in their discussion posts rather than engaging with material in a meaningful way.
- Students not properly applying course concepts

My Course



SOCY208: Sociology of Gender

- Online – asynchronous
 - Z Course
 - 7 weeks
- Discussion boards, writing assignments, exams.



My Strategy

Media Link Assignment

Media Link Assignment



Step 1

Students are assigned a module topic



Step 2

Students find a current event or topic that relates to that module



Step 3

Students writes up a brief analysis (2-3 paragraphs) explaining the event and how it relates to the module, applying concepts

Media Link Assignment (Continued)



Step 4

Instead of submitting this assignment to me only, students post this to a dedicated discussion forum



Step 5

Students ask further questions for peers to respond to.



Step 6

Every student needs to respond to one of these posts each week (except when submitting)



Examples

Modeling expectations for Students



For my media link discussion, I wanted to share a story out of Houston, Texas. This story discusses how a court ruled in favor of several students who had been protesting the discriminatory elements of school dresscode that limited the hairstyles that "male students" can have. They were not allowed to have hair past their shoulders. The judge ruled in favor of these six boys and one non-binary student and against this gender-based dresscode. I found this news item to be interesting because it shows a) how the law can be used to challenge discriminatory sex/gender-based practices, b) how social institutions reinforce gender norms, and c) that there is not one way to



By *Jessica Klein* 15th June 2021

As definitions of sexuality change and expand, women's orientations are becoming less rigid than men's. Why?



 **liya**
@mscarti3r

the masculine urge to ignore how my actions effect others

3:01 PM · Nov 2, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

221 Retweets 4 Quote Tweets 1,037 Likes

← **Thread**

 **liver king**
@raremoth

the feminine urge to have three drinks at all times (one for enjoyment, one for energy, and one for hydration)

8:14 AM · Nov 5, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

20.2K Retweets 2,517 Quote Tweets 145K Likes

Government Is the Greatest Purveyor of Inequality

The government itself is inequality.



Scholarship



Goals and Scholarship



Engagement Meta-Cognition

Teach Students How to Learn:

Strategies you can incorporate into any course to improve student metacognition, study skills, and motivation



by Sandra McGuire and Stephanie McGuire



Ownership



Empowerment

Creating Wicked Students:

Designing Courses for a Complex World

by Paul Hanstedt





Assessment





18

posts



91

replies



58

concepts



Self-Evaluation

Keep

- Authoring of Discussion posts and questions

Change

- Not the best for 7 week course – too many students in one week
- Make sure instructions are clear
- Make more visual

Self-Evaluation

My Teaching

- Need to work on presentation of assignments
- Need to find more ways to model work and set students up for success (eg modeling)

My Students

- Creative and like to share their own examples and interests
- Thoughtful and considerate
- Thrive when given opportunity

Final Thoughts



- Reflection on teaching
- Getting into the mindset of students
 - Materials
- Community and Practice



Thank you!

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