Reflection in Active Learning

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... active learning is the interaction of new ideas and information, experiences, and reflection ... (emphasis added)
Your Presenter

Tom Lamonica …

*an activist for Active Learning*

- Intro to Public Relations  +  1 GA, 2 UTAs
- Internship director, SoC  +  1 GA
- Assistant for special projects, including alumni, professional development and special events (COM Week)
- Former public relations professional whose greatest regret is he didn’t do enough reflection.
Reflection Fuels My Active Teaching … … and Students’ Active Learning

- Introduction to Public Relations …
  120+ students from 20+ majors each term
  - Get Involved … a common experience that can be different for all
    - Linking to professional development or service for all (RSOs, service units)
    - An assignment about process and writing.
    - The value is in the action AND reflection
  - My Career Project for COM Week
    - Attend a career event
    - Learn the process (career development)
    - Meet the people (recruiters)
    - Reflect upon the experience.
SoC Interns

100-160 per semester

- Students find their own experiences.
- Not required to graduate.
- Besides the work on the job …
  - Evaluations from professional supervisors
  - Reflective Essays on the work they do
    (read by me, and graduate assistant)
Reflection Adds to the Teaching & Learning Experience

- Intro to Public Relations
  - Students …
    - Learn by doing (and often by joining)
    - Learn by reflecting (and analysis of the organization)
  - Teaching Staff …
    - Learn by reading student work
    - Reflect collectively & individually
Reflection Adds to the Teaching & Learning Experience

- Interns’ Reflective Essays
  - Students …
    - The value of reflection by professionals doing a job.
    - Examining the processes that get things done
    - Processing personalities & interaction in the workplace
  - Teaching Staff …
    - Understand how experiential learning demands more, but can provide more (the “classroom of one”).
    - Respond with help & encouragement.
    - Look for signs of fatigue, failure or frustration.
Students Reflect

How they reflect

- Understanding is a key to active learning
- Today’s student will write how they feel if you let them know
  - Your goal is to help them get better and do better
  - You will keep their confidences if they ask.
- They will care how much you know once they know how much you care.
Students Reflect

- What they reflect
  - “What I expected …”
  - “What I experienced …”
    - “What surprised me …”
    - “What disappointed me …”
    - “What challenged me …”
  - “What this will do for my future …”
Faculty Reflect

- Back to Dee Fink
  - We provide, and support students’ search for, **INFORMATION**.
  - We encourage **EXPERIENCES**.
  - We ask them to conduct **REFLECTION**.
Thank You!

To continue the discussion ... or reflect on this!

Tom Lamonica

- School of Communication
- talamon@ilstu.edu