



# Reflection in Active Learning

*Symposium on Teaching & Learning  
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# [ L. Dee Fink

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



# [ Your Presenter



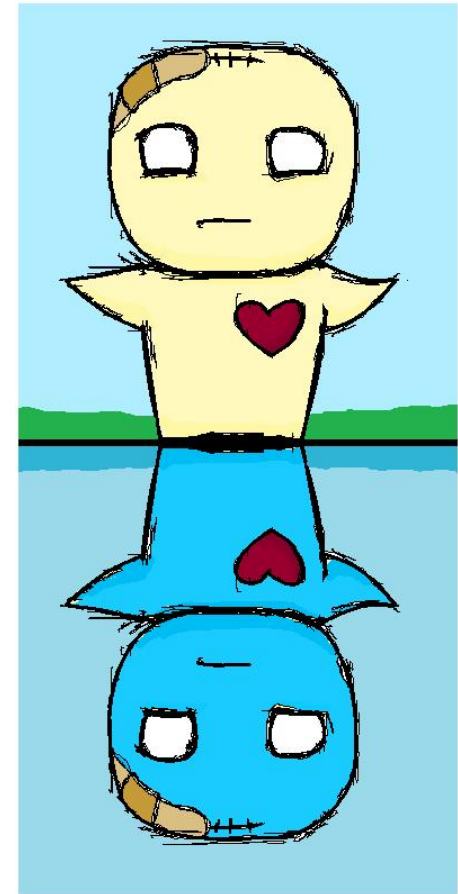
Tom Lamonica ...

*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.



# [ Interns ... Reflective Essays ]

## ■ 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

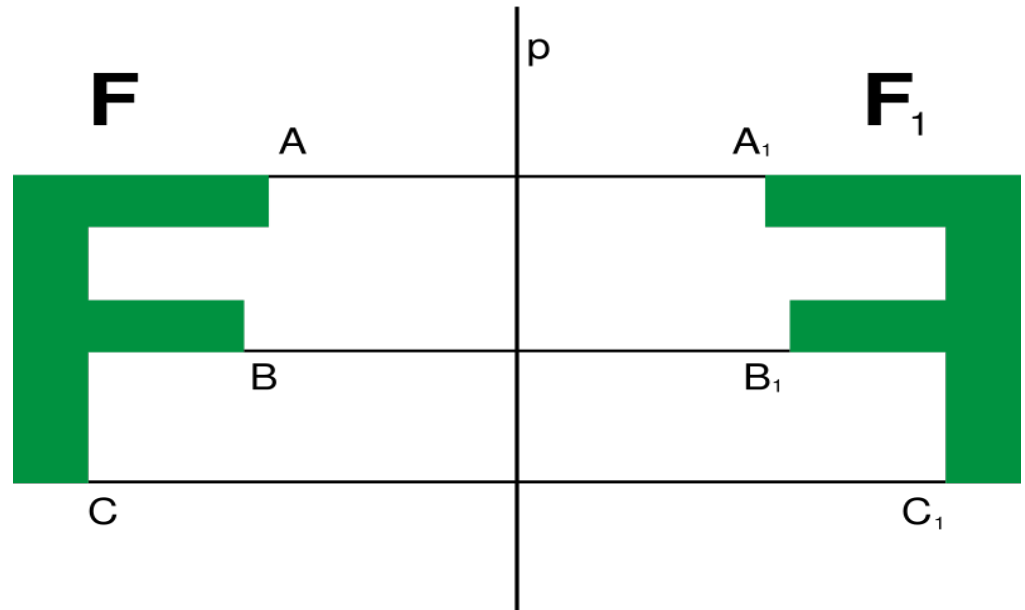
## ■ Interns' Reflective Essays

- 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 ]

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- 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!

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