



The Scholarly Teacher

An Electronic Resource from the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at Park University

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Teaching Tip

Using Writing-to-Learn to Promote Critical Thinking

“Writing is one of the most effective ways to develop thinking” (Forselman, 1985).

Writing-to-learn exercises can facilitate the learning of students from all disciplines by fostering those skills of metacognition fundamental to critical thinking. Researchers have found that by incorporating writing to learn exercises (e.g., reading journals, learning logs, synthesis papers, reflective essays, etc.) students not only demonstrate a deeper understanding of course concepts but also gain valuable experience practicing the discourses of their disciplines (Parker & Goodkin, 1987; Young & Fulwiler, 1986). For a fuller discussion of writing-to-learn activities you could incorporate into your courses, visit <http://wac.colostate.edu/intro/pop5.cfm>.

Publication Spotlight

Currents in Teaching and Learning

Published by Worcester State College

Currents in Teaching and Learning is a peer-reviewed electronic journal that fosters exchanges among reflective teacher-scholars across the disciplines. Published twice a year, *Currents* seeks to improve teaching and learning in higher education with short reports on classroom practices as well as longer research, theoretical, or conceptual articles, and explorations of issues and challenges facing teachers today.

To read the guidelines for submissions, visit <http://www.worcester.edu/Currents/Shared%20Documents/SubmissionsGuidelines.aspx?PageView=Shared>

Manuscripts accepted on a rolling basis

The mission of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning is to promote the practice and profession of teaching at Park University.

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Conference Opportunities

Integrating the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning into the Academic Culture: Crafting a Commitment to Classroom Research

The Center for Teaching and Learning at Maryville University will present the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) conference "*Integrating the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning into Academic Culture: Crafting a Commitment to Classroom Research*" on October 2 and 3, 2009. The program will include tracks for SoTL researchers and academic administrators.

The conference is geared towards those who are new to SoTL, faculty currently engaged in SoTL, Chairs, Deans, and others who are engaged in improving teaching effectiveness and learning outcomes.

The keynote speakers are Kathleen McKinney of Illinois State University and Randall Bass of Georgetown University. Registration is currently open and closes on August 15th. Please visit the conference website at: www.maryville.edu/about-excellence-ctl-conference.htm for more information.

What's new on the CETL Site?

- Check out The Best Practices Institute and The Gallery of Teaching Excellence!

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