

Florida Atlantic University
Center for Teaching and Learning
Faculty Learning Community 2012-2013

Title: Getting the Wizard of Oz into the Undergraduate Curriculum

Facilitator: Dr. Stephen D. Engle, Professor of History, Director Larkin Symposium on the American Presidency

Focus: This FLC will bring together faculty members interested in finding new ways to integrate research into understanding various disciplines as an approach to engage upper division students and challenge them to solve problems. We will use a variety of historical contexts that seek to explore and sustain research-focused curriculum with the aim of teaching students to discriminate between fact and opinion (among a variety of evidence) to reach well-informed conclusions. We will establish a framework to expose them to practical problems of research and information literacy, and will provide guidelines to apply written and oral presentation skills in demonstrating these research-based competencies.

Participants in this FLC will: (1) identify how students assess information and distinguish fact from opinion (2) explore and discuss the best means of implementing practices that educate students in discriminating between fact and opinion (3) explore modifications in teaching research strategies to overcome cultural and discipline-based barriers that lead to unsubstantiated conclusions (4) provide examples that can be incorporated into upper division curricula, and (5) discuss methods of sustaining student success as a means to achieving a more culturally literate graduate.

Outcomes: This FLC will develop a guide with example materials that will provide a pedagogical framework for assessing the how's and why's of including research—and inquiry—based pedagogies in upper division curricula.

- Participants will create at least two (2) examples of activities that are intended to include research—and inquiry—based pedagogies in upper division curricula in the fall semester.
- In the spring semester participants will be expected to devise new research-based activities and present them to the FLC group, and describe how these activities establish more prescient ways to gauge learning outcomes. Participants will share their syllabi with the group and offer criticism
- Students will be expected to evaluate these activities on the SPOTS and faculty will work with the QEP Office to develop appropriate measures to assess student learning in research/inquiry based classes.
- Syllabi will be collected for distribution for other faculty members interested in enhancing their upper division courses.

Potential Meeting Times:

The FLC leader is available to meet Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays in the mornings or before 1:00 pm every three-to-four weeks on the Boca Campus in the fall and spring. Although it is expected that faculty will participate fully in these meetings, it is understood that on occasion participants may use skype and videoconference to attend if necessary.